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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

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an argument of faultless logic, considerable length, and impenetrable seriousness. That women—aye, and married women—of property will have the vote presently is what he expects. He regards the prospect with dispassionate goodwill. "By the natural law of selection," he says a little pawkily, "wives are, on the whole, the flower of their sex."

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This is all very well. The defence is based, no doubt, on the highest principles of justice and psychology; but one cannot help surmising that the real reason why Mr. Lecky would vote for female suffrage is to be found in this somewhat Machiavellian paragraph:

"The establishment of female franchise on a property basis would probably have the great incidental advantage of imposing a real and powerful obstacle to the further degradation of the suffrage. Many who would advocate manhood suffrage would shrink from universal suffrage. It may, I think, be safely assumed that the British nation would not acquiesce in government by a Parliament in which female influence was preponderant; and women in Great Britain largely outnumber men. If, however, the suffrage of women were once admitted, it would not be easy to make a fresh anomaly by making male suffrage universal and that of females dependent on a property qualification."

Controversial all these topics are. Mr. Lecky shows that he has become, with time, a highly adroit controversialist. He hits hard, and he hits straight. True, his tone is a trifle lofty. Speaking of the decrease in the morality, and even the common honesty of the members of a democratic Parliament, as compared with the high level of the members of a literary and exclusive club, he graciously observes: "It would be unreasonable to expect from a body elected under such stormy and contentious conditions as the House of Commons—a standard as high as that in the Athenaeum Club." Still, when he warms to it—and on Irish land and Irish priests, and the growth of expenditure and the incidence of taxation, there is something more than a polar glow about his writing—he can deal a swashing blow with another. Having sketched the attitude of leading Nonconformists towards the public and the private obliquities of the late Mr. Parnell, he asks grimly:

"Can those who witnessed this grotesque exhibition wonder at the charge of pharisaism and hypocrisy which foreign observers so abundantly bring against English public opinion? Can they be surprised that 'the Nonconformist Conscience' is rapidly becoming a by-word in England, much like the 'moral sentiments' of Joseph Surface?"

He dwells on the "incontinence of speech" and "the dreary torrent of idle, diffusive, insincere talk that now drags its slow lengths through so many months at Westminster"; and, having compared it with the terseness of Congress in the days

of Jefferson, and of the House of Commons under Palmerston, he adds :

"The scenes of violence, anarchy, and deliberate obstruction that have been so frequent during late years have done much to destroy that respect for the House, that timidity in appearing before a fastidious audience, which once weighed heavily on nearly all new members, and imposed a useful restraint on idle speaking. At the same time, the development of the provincial paper has made it an easy and desirable thing for each member to be reported in full in his own constituency as a prominent speaker, and the vast increase of stump oratory by Members of Parliament in every town and almost every village has given nearly all members a fatal facility. Something, also, has been due to the fact that the House of Commons was led or profoundly influenced during many years by a very great orator, who possessed every form of eloquence except conciseness, and who could rarely answer a question without making a speech."

It is in his admirably lucid and condensed chapter on recent Irish agrarian legislation that Mr. Lecky is most conspicuously strong, indignant, and clear. He is scarcely less outspoken when he writes of "the nature and causes of a priestly despotism in Ireland, which probably, on the whole, exceeds that in any other European country," and of the "enormous, scandalous, ostentatious clerical coercion that is in the present day practised in Ireland."

"Nor is this all that can be truly said. Under the teaching of the Catholic clergy the moral sense of great masses of the Irish people has been so perverted that the most atrocious murders, if they have any agrarian end, carry with them no blame, and their perpetrators are sedulously sheltered from justice. It is impossible to disguise the significance of the fact that nearly all those murderers who have been brought to justice have been Catholics, that nearly all of them have gone to the gallows fortified by the rites of their Church and professing the most complete and absolute submission to its commands; and yet that scarcely in a single instance have they made the only reparation in their power, by publicly acknowledging their guilt and the justice of their sentence. I do not suppose that any English Minister would venture to propose that a murderer who sent his victim into another world 'unhousel'd, disappointed, unanel'd,' with all his sins upon his head and with no possibility of obtaining spiritual consolation or assistance, should himself only be allowed to receive such consolation up to the moment of his conviction. But it may be doubted whether any other single measure would do so much to strengthen criminal law in Ireland."

In the mouth of a temperate scholar, still more when they are deliberately written and published, there is a white-hot vehemence about these words that is almost terrible.

In dealing with those whose opinions he disapproves, Mr. Lecky wields a pleasing and downright sarcasm. Of the Saint Simonian Church he remarks: "There were elaborate dresses and ceremonies manifestly aping Catholicism, the usual combination of intoxicating vanity and deliberate imposture, the usual very dubious sexual morality and financial transactions." The Comtist revolutionary party in Brazil he calls "a small group of pretentious philosophical pedants, of a sect which modestly claims for itself the government of the world," and proceeds: "Their State papers are a curious

study, and have, I suppose, seldom been surpassed in grandiloquent absurdity."

"Every one knows," he remarks, "how large a proportion of the public business of the upper and middle classes in England is transacted in hotels. But in the Parish Councils Act, which conferred on electors who are chiefly very poor men enormous powers of taxation, administration, and control, a special clause was inserted to prevent the councils from meeting, except in case of absolute necessity, in premises licensed to sell intoxicating liquors. The provision was probably a wise one; but it illustrates curiously the position which modern democracy assigns to the working classes—so largely trusted to govern others, so little trusted to govern themselves."

But it is what he calls the "professional politician" that most stirs Mr. Lecky's indignation and fear. The phrase at times recurs almost every ten pages: the person is the symbol for all that is most flagitious and corrupt in modern public life. To him is due that tendency which leads rival parties to make constitutional changes on the principles of a cheap auction-room. It is he who has learnt in the name of a lofty morality to save the expense of bribing the people out of his own pocket, by promising them lavish expenditure for their own benefit out of the pockets of other people.

"Intriguers and demagogues playing successfully on the passions and the credulity of the ignorant and the poor form one of the great characteristic evils and dangers of our time. . . . This 'generosity,' which impels legislators, without the smallest sacrifice to themselves, to seek to conciliate one class by handing over to them the property of another, is likely to be a growing virtue in English politics."

Mr. Lecky makes, perhaps, too big a bugbear of what is no doubt a very unlovely class of persons. Their vice lies less in their being "professional" than in their being "politicians." Amateur politicians would do no less mischief; professional statesmen would be free from most of their special defects. These persons, who give up their whole time to a calling in which they play with edged tools at the expense of the Empire, and take their wages in local notoriety and applause, are more a symptom than a cause of democratic corruption. They attend democracy inevitably; but statesmen can make them useful, and national common sense can keep them harmless. No doubt they do a good deal of mischief; but on the whole, and in moments of national crisis, though they are very noisy, they are not a great deal heard.

In a non-political journal criticism of Mr. Lecky's opinions would be out of place: they are best dealt with by being fairly stated. The reader must judge them for himself. No doubt those whose politics are not Mr. Lecky's will come to the conclusion that little has been lost by not reading his *History of England in the Eighteenth Century*, since this is what he writes of the nineteenth; and those who agree with him already will think that the weight of his argument is indeed great, because it is for their own side. Some of us are by nature Radicals, and some Tories, and some are now the one and then the other; and some only try to make the best

of a bad world as they find it, and, leaving principles to philosophers, strive to do as little mischief as may be. Mr. Lecky was once, perhaps, something of the first, and is now not a little of the second class: need we wonder if he should end a convinced member of the last? But to whichever of these kinds a man belongs, he cannot but benefit by reading, and reading carefully, these two volumes, bulky and discursive though they be. Their clear and attractive style, their honest, honourable purpose, their facts, skilfully marshalled if not very new, their pungent and suggestive observations, would enlarge the thinking even of a "professional politician." The opponent who has forced himself to find the best answer he can to the things he disagrees with will indeed have swept up the dusty corners of his mind; and the sympathiser will find his views lifted into a higher atmosphere of public, not party, good, and of outspoken avowal, whether it square with party notions or not. There is a manly simplicity about Mr. Lecky's fundamental principles that will almost disarm the antagonism that his particular opinions provoke. He distrusts democracy, not on account of any antipathy to "the People," but because democracy pursues a theoretic equality which does not square with the facts of life, and is thus unfavourable to liberty. It is because he esteems so highly the national honour and well-being that to him a "political crime" is something more (rather than something less) criminal than a private crime. He has no great fear of Socialism in England, because "that curious Teutonic power of framing a picture of the world out of formulae and abstract reasonings is not an English characteristic."

"To me at least," he says, "the first and greatest service a Government can render to morals seems to be the maintenance of a social organisation, in which the path of duty and the path of interest as much as possible coincide, in which honesty, industry, providence, and public spirit naturally reap their rewards, and the opposite vices their punishment."

How can one fall out with the confessor of so upright a faith? Who would part from Mr. Lecky and lay down his book without adding one more tribute of admiration and regard to those he has long enjoyed?

J. A. HAMILTON.

Dundonald. By the Hon. J. W. Fortescue. (Macmillans.)

LATE though this publication occurs in the series of "English Men of Action," there is not one of the preceding volumes that deals with a more inspiring subject. The bare relation of Dundonald's deeds must read like some romance of the Heroic Age. Dragons and enchantment seem more proper to the story than First Lords and Admiralty Courts, which, indeed, one is almost disposed to resent as sorry anachronisms.

Were it justifiable in the biographer to regard Dundonald solely as the man of action in his own element—as the great warrior and the great seaman—no more engaging duty would fall to a writer. But Dundonald's character—simple as it appears, with much of the simplicity common to men of genius,

when so regarded—was, in truth, strangely complicated; and it is even now no easy task to deal equably with all the controversial aspects of Dundonald's stormy and extraordinary career. Mr. Fortescue shows, in his able and admirably temperate book, that he has the qualifications peculiarly needed. His estimate of Dundonald is altogether the most acceptable that has been put forth, and one that is not likely to be challenged. While he has measured with the nicest discrimination Dundonald's responsibility for much of the ill fortune that befell him, his recognition of the disproportionate severity with which he was punished is not more ample than justice required. Mr. Fortescue rightly traces Dundonald's mishaps and errors to the singular lack of worldly wisdom that marked his contests with the administrative powers and other constituted authorities of his own country. The passion for reforming the world is perhaps the most dangerous that so insatiable a fighter could possess. In all those conflicts, in the early quarrel with Lord St. Vincent, as in the Gambier court-martial and the Stock Exchange trial, Dundonald showed little or nothing of the skill and foresight so conspicuous in his naval operations. By the exercise of a little ordinary prudence he might have steered clear of the ruinous quicksands of the trial. Yet, strange to say, the craft and daring he displayed upon the seas deserted him when warring with what he considered evils and abuses in high places.

In real war, as Mr. Fortescue remarks, he would never have made such mistakes. It is on the quarter-deck that the greatness of Dundonald, as a leader and as a seaman, is exemplified. Never was there a man of action with more "heart" in him, or with more of that quickening power that inspires the courage of others. No one could have less needed the advice that Nelson gave him at Palermo—"Never mind manoeuvres; always go at them." How competent he was to act on this counsel is shown by the wonderful series of exploits connected with the cruise of the *Speedy*, which form one of the most thrilling chapters in naval history. Not less brilliant were his services in command of the *Pallas*, and subsequently of the *Impérieuse*. The story of the famous action of Basque Roads, or Aix Roads, is very succinctly told; and with equal clearness and fairness Mr. Fortescue deals with Dundonald's unhappy attack on Lord Gambier, the admiral in command of the British squadron. There was only too good a basis for charging Lord Gambier with incompetency and apathy; but the House of Commons was not the place, nor the motion for a vote of thanks to the admiral and the fleet a fit occasion, for such an attack.

"If," says Mr. Fortescue, "on public grounds he disapproved (as he well might) of Lord Gambier's conduct on service, the straightforward course, however invidious, was to prosecute him before a court-martial; not to attack him before an inexpert body like the House of Commons, where the accused would have no opportunity of defending himself, and the tribunal was utterly incompetent to pronounce judgment."

The moment Lord Gambier heard of Dundonald's intentions he claimed to be put on his trial. The court-martial was held, and became, as Mr. Fortescue puts it, "a trial of strength between Cochrane and the Government." Naturally, the Government won. Dundonald had refused to act as prosecutor, and was thus deprived of the right of cross-examining witnesses. He went into the fight with his hands tied. He had no shadow of grievance with the Government. His gallantry at Aix Roads had been handsomely rewarded by the Ministry, and he had been highly complimented in the Admiral's despatch. Yet he chose at the outset to invest the case with a political colouring, by threatening the Government, in his capacity as member for Westminster, with his opposition to an inevitable and customary vote of thanks with regard to a great naval action in which he himself was the victorious principal concerned.

From the date of Lord Gambier's acquittal, Mr. Fortescue thinks, Dundonald's "prospects in the service were ruined." Not altogether ruined, perhaps, if he could have learned the value of compromise, and have become a political as well as a naval member of Parliament. Four years later, when the fatal year of the Stock Exchange scandal dawned, he was appointed flag-captain under his uncle, Sir Alexander Cochrane, then in command of the North American fleet. Unfortunately he had spent these years, with characteristic energy and wrongheadedness, in making enemies, both civil and professional, and there were those among them not likely to forget when the time came for reprisals. As to the Stock Exchange trial, Mr. Fortescue wisely decides that it is unnecessary to deal with the case in detail. Dundonald's innocence of fraudulent conspiracy need not be asserted, since it has long been "accepted by public opinion and endorsed by public authority." It is natural now to regard the sentence passed against him as monstrous. The degradation of standing in the pillory was a punishment that such a man should not be made to suffer, as Napoleon remarked to Lord Ebrington at Elba. It was remitted on the recommendation of the Government; but that it was part of the sentence was scarcely less disgraceful than its execution would have been.

Dundonald was barely forty when, a few weeks after the verdict, his name was struck off the Navy List. Four years later he left the country and entered upon the marvellous course of action and adventure in South American waters, which outshone even his earlier brilliant exploits against the Spaniards and French. His splendid, and indeed unparalleled, exploits as the liberator of Chili and Brazil fill three chapters of Mr. Fortescue's book, and are inevitably but a summary of Dundonald's extraordinary services in the cause of those young and extremely ungrateful republics. But the summary is a most admirable and skilful example of the art of abridgment. Nothing could be better told than the story of such feats as the cutting out of the *Esmeralda* from under the guns of

Callao, or the surprise and capture of Valdivia, or the almost incredible operations of Dundonald with his single ship against the Portuguese fleet in the Atlantic.

Passing to other matters, Mr. Fortescue deals fully with the facts of the tardy reparation made to Dundonald when he was restored to rank. But, late though it was, the restitution was complete, and marked by every circumstance of grace and honour. No one, I think, will dissent from the judgment Mr. Fortescue gives in the last page of his excellent biography: "The fame of Nelson overshadows all others in British naval history; but as a naval genius Nelson himself stands hardly higher than Dundonald."

J. ARTHUR BLAIKIE.

College Sermons. By the late Benjamin Jowett. Edited by the Very Rev. the Hon. W. H. Fremantle. (John Murray.)

To have been at Oxford while Dr. Jowett was Master of Balliol, to have seen and heard him in the flesh, ought to help a critic of his sermons to estimate their permanent value; but, in fact, this private and personal knowledge serves chiefly to convince a reviewer of the impertinence and impossibility of his trade, and to confuse his vision. There was no man at Oxford fifteen years ago whose personality impressed itself more clearly on the undergraduate of average sensibility than Dr. Jowett's. It is specially difficult, therefore, for such an one to read these sermons dispassionately, apart from the recollection of their author, and to discover how much of that personality the next generation will be able to detect in their mere style and thought. To most readers, we suspect, the first impression will be that these discourses are unemphatic, scrappy, bald, and often commonplace. To read them after Maurice or Newman is like turning from Plato to Aristotle. None of the trappings and adornments of the ordinary sermon are here, to distract us from the preacher's bare and naked statement of his own belief—and nothing more than his own belief—on the subject under discussion. The reader who heard Jowett in the flesh twenty years ago in Balliol College asks himself, "Was this all?" and fears that the living presence was the essential part of his former impression.

But a little perseverance will dissipate this fear. We cannot by reading the sermons recover the exact piquancy which the preacher's delivery and presence originally gave them, but this piquancy obscured rather than revealed their essential character. The oddity of the preacher's manner was not vital. Without it we perceive more readily the total and final effect of the preacher's style, the bald sincerity and conscientious simplicity which give the sermons their power. In Sermon xi., upon study, we are warned against "fine writing, which of all kinds of writing is the worst," and in Sermon v. against "the temper of alarm and exaggeration" which so easily besets enthusiasts and religious teachers. To cultivate "the temper of mind which sees things as they truly are" is this preacher's conclusion of the

whole matter. He observes his own rules most religiously. His sermons do not flow: they come drop by drop. He refuses to give them any illusive appearance of dealing exhaustively or even consecutively with his text. The thoughts are put down because the preacher felt them, not because they coalesce, or form a convincing chain of reasoning. In some points, therefore, Dr. Jowett recalls the manner of Robertson of Brighton. Both preachers give us themselves: the one strenuously, the other carefully. There is, therefore, a radical difference between them, as well as a resemblance. Dr. Jowett conceives that "to see things as they truly are" we must be cool. He will not wrestle with God. It is because his sermons are not, in the true sense, sermons at all that they impress us. We meet with no fierce gush of self-assertion, no ecstasies, no abandonment either of self or of self-control. The preacher conscientiously refuses to allow the strength and passion of a conviction to stand as a proof of its truth. Taken as a whole, therefore, the sermons do not warm or edify. Their exhortations follow the formula of Joseph Surface, "the man who," rather than Elijah's "thou art the man." But with singular faithfulness the dispassionate speaker explores and exposes our pretences and delusions. All the pleasant social fictions and conventions, by which we tolerate each other's sins and weaknesses and maintain an inflated estimate of our virtues, are detected with grave sincerity.

"We are all inclined to think ourselves much more exceptional beings than we really are," he tells us; and "all those of us who preach should be careful of saying more than we believe."

We are inclined to mistake the tumult of our soul for its depth.

"Prayer is a time for wishing and thinking, not, as some imagine, a mere enthusiasm or act of prostration, but requiring the highest exercise of the intellect as well as the deepest affection of the heart. God does not demand of us that we should lie down before Him like worms crawling in the sunshine."

This sentence is not the less striking because it is almost "fine writing." And it is not only the sins of the enthusiast that Jowett detects. He is aware that "the tendency of men in general is to stagnation rather than to movement." He sees clearly that, "instead of Christianity converting the world, the world has in part converted Christianity." Although the sermon on the use of money almost too studiously avoids extravagant abuse of riches, yet it is an obvious conviction of the preacher that "all that men have is nothing in comparison with what they are in themselves." The phrase, "Let us keep our minds above our bodies," is a favourite watchword.

These quotations may serve to indicate the spiritual tone and temper of the sermons. But they convey no adequate impression of the exact diagnosis of some of men's mental and spiritual maladies which the sermons contain. This is the result not so much of insight as of painstaking—of the careful watchfulness which persists in seeing things "as they truly are." Sermon

xii., on conversation, is the finest example in the volume.

We cannot leave the sermons without saying a word on their religious position. Throughout they depreciate the importance of the miracles of the Gospels, and suggest that the superhuman Christ is less useful to our faith than the human. If the life of Christ is written again in our own age "it should not be as a history of wonders, but as a history of truths which seem to be always fading away before the eyes of men." And yet Christ is to the preacher of these discourses more than any man, and is worshipped by him with a peculiar homage. This religious position is familiar enough; but we are surprised that Jowett should fail to perceive what the loss of miracle means, and should minimise its importance. Every man has in him more morality than he can live up to, and his need is not for instruction but for strength. For the ordinary man always and everywhere the significance of Christ has been not in His moral teaching, but in the motives and the strength He gives for performing difficult duties. Christ helped the early Christian because He made the unseen friend God and the unseen home Heaven almost tangible realities. This fact must be granted, even if we deny that Christ rose from the dead and sent grace to His fainting disciples. One would have expected that Jowett would prick this bubble—that the miraculous is of no importance—and would justify St. Paul's use of the proverb, "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die." If miracle is false, it must go; but the instinct of St. Paul and Browning is sane and just, that our loss is enormous. It is, in fact, impossible to read these sermons without marking in them a strain of wistfulness and of effort, which we shall be right in explaining by the preacher's conscientious refusal to receive all the articles of the Creed. He justifies the temper which goes softly and fears to rejoice, by a reference to Christ's tears over Jerusalem, and to St. Paul's complaint of Demas, as if these passages were in any sense characteristic of Christianity. The gospel of these sermons, that "the stars in their courses fight against no man," can never give the strength of the earlier Gospel, "Because I live, ye shall live also"; and nowadays more than ever we need strength rather than knowledge.

RONALD BAYNE.

Old French Romances. Done into English by William Morris. With an Introduction by Joseph Jacobs. (George Allen.)

It is always with especial pleasure that we welcome any attempt at making known a foreign literature that has been unduly neglected; and surely this is the case with the literature of medieval France in this country. Mr. William Morris deserves great credit for giving his countrymen some old French tales that are thoroughly steeped in the romance of the Middle Ages. Three of them ("The Tale of Coustans the Emperor," "The Friendship of Amis and Amile," and "The History of Over Sea") have already been issued from the Kelmscott

Press, in two luxurious volumes, while the fourth, "The Tale of King Florus and the Fair Jehane," is, we believe, new.

If Mr. Morris's renderings are not a complete success, his general aim is so excellent that we may well overlook any minor defects. Should he ever think of translating any more of these tales, such as the "Comtesse de Ponthieu," or those later ones so interesting to students of English literature—the "Histoire de Foulques Fitz Warin" and "Le Livre de Troilus"—we hope he will see his way to modifying the method he has adopted. When Mr. Lang did his "Aucassin," he said that, "as for style," he had "attempted, if not Old English, at least English which is elderly, with a memory of Malory"; and the result was eminently satisfactory. Now, Mr. Morris tries something more ancient than this, at least in part. He is presumably translating for the general public; but we think that people who know that "dight"="prepared," "astoried"="stunned," "bended of"="with a band of," "danger"="power," "stour"="battle"—people, in short, who must have some acquaintance with Middle English, would probably, being something of philologists, prefer to read the tales in the original. Is "he had gotten him more than three hundred pounds of garnishment out-taken his plenishing" much clearer than *il gagna plus de C. C. livres de meuble, sains son harnois*? It is a mistake to use the words "carles and queans" in the sense of "male and female," whereas they are to the average reader associated with the ideas of "churls and queens." Mr. Pater, once having occasion to render a passage from the "Amis and Amile," made part of it run as follows: "And they began to sound their rattles before the Court of Amile's house, as lepers are accustomed to do." Mr. Morris translates these words thus: "And there they fell to sounding on their tartavelles before the Court of Amile, even as mesel folk be wont to do,"—with the obvious disadvantage that very few people know the meaning of "mesel," and still fewer that of "tartavelle." Sometimes we come across a passage that reads very curiously: as where we are told that Sir Robin ran to his wife "with his arms spread abroad, and they clipped and kissed together dearly," "cluppen" being the Middle English for "embrace." In the last example, by the way, "dearly" as an equivalent for *monement* is not correct. On the whole, however, the renderings are remarkably free from mistakes of the kind, though there are a few slips such as "he was the best that knew arms" for *le on seust as armes*.

We have pointed out these things, because we consider that they disfigure a translation that is, in other respects, well done; nor do we wish for a moment to deny that, taken as a whole, there is much charm and quaintness in the style which Mr. Morris has invented for his purpose. The introductory remarks of Mr. Jacobs are both scholarly and suggestive.

Finally, a word as to the popularising of literature such as this. Mr. Morris has gone a step in the right direction, by making his tales more generally accessible than

they have hitherto been. When will Mr. Lang and his publishers do likewise? It may be instructive to point out that a very fair German rendering of the "Aucassin and Nicolette" exists, of which there is an unlimited supply, and for which the price charged is twenty Pfennige. Without going so far as this, it ought to be possible to diffuse the knowledge of a little work that is well-nigh perfect in its way beyond a limited circle of 550, many of whom probably value the book rather than its contents.

H. OELSNER.

TWO ESSAYISTS.

The Unconscious Humorist. By E. H. Lacon Watson. (Elkin Mathews.)

Human Documents. By Arthur Lynch. (Dobell.)

"It is true," says Mr. Lacon Watson, "that the general essay is not over popular just now." At any rate, but few attempt to write one, unless it be after the manner of a glorified and expanded review. One grows a little restive after reading the usual false or meaningless platitudes concerning Byron and Wordsworth; nor is there any excitement to be got out of approved, unvarying quotations. Even the unanimity of critics is apt to irritate when it suggests a lack of thought. The habit of collecting together the results of his newspaper and magazine articles is, doubtless, a pleasant pastime to their writer. The detached paragraphs acquire for the moment an additional value: they have got on in the world, and, attired in cloth boards and gilt lettering, swagger for a week or two as literature. A careless public has a reason for applauding the mummary. Not to know the latest novel is to be indecorous, unfit for polite circles: therefore have books manufactured of scraps and snippets a certain vogue. They supply so easily, these literary Bradshaws, information, statistics, quotations. A reader who hastily scans their pages picks up enough knowledge to pass through a dinner party without disgrace if the courses are not too numerous, and may be even with considerable credit.

Mr. Lynch's book stands a better chance of popularity than Mr. Watson's, for his themes are more commonplace; but, fortunately, he seldom dallies with literature of the present or the past. Chiefly he endeavours to give us fairly critical sketches of the careers and characters of certain people of importance in our day. He is almost always entertaining, sometimes instructive, at others amazing. Dealing with practical men and affairs he is at his best: his studies of John Burns and Mr. Chamberlain are admirably convincing and really critical. Here is his summing-up of Birmingham's most famous statesman:

"How will he figure in history? Validly, he will not figure at all. Who would care to remember Mr. Chamberlain when he has lapsed out of the public arena? His friends must build their main hopes of his enduring fame upon a monument. What form should it take? Perhaps, that epigram reported of him from his schooldays, 'I'm Chamberlain, who are you?' And the passer-by will repeat the inquiry."

Of John Burns he writes:

"Jealousy, vanity, the combative spirit, the necessity of securing himself if only to further his ideas, are all motives that have pulled him hither and thither in his course, and the simplicity of stump oratory and agitation of the Tribune has given place to the more complex wire-pulling and intrigue of the political Boss. The great but rather bombastic Socialist has developed into the practical but not quite ingenuous Liberal."

Vigour is the distinctive quality of Mr. Lynch's style; he has few of the more subtle graces that make a great prose writer. His opinions, too, are stated with so gratifying a cocksureness that he deserves to be right always. But on the rare occasions when he volunteers verdicts upon philosophies and literature, he is "sadly to seek." A perverted instinct tells him that the *Jungle Books* are "the unique thing that Kipling only could have done." A remark that must annoy Mrs. Hawkesby, Terence, and their friends; and most justly. He solemnly ranks Mr. Herbert Spencer, prefacing his assertion by "a cautious if," as the third of the world's thinkers, whereat even the most flippant of us grow suddenly solemn. Yet the book, for all its defects, is a good one, and thoroughly interesting.

The graceful qualities lacking in Mr. Lynch's work, the delicate turns of fancy and humour, shine abundantly on Mr. Lacon Watson's pages. It is the best book of desultory essays given to us since the unapproachable master of this form was carried to his long rest on Vailima height. For Mr. Watson is a disciple of Stevenson, who surely was above all else an essayist. He touches on many subjects deftly. A note of pathos, a sly stroke of humour, a suggestion of philosophy deep enough to tickle one into momentary activity of thought, are his devices. The result is pleasing entertainment, and a storing away in the memory of not a few ingenious and happily inspired phrases. The following paragraph might, one almost thinks, have been discovered in *Virginibus Puerisque*:

"It is a poor solace to recall the accurate balancing of accounts or even fortunate speculations in the market, to remember that on this occasion you had the better of Jones, and on the other that you out-maneuvred Robinson. Or, at the best, it is a sordid mind that finds such reflections as these sufficient to cheer him when he is past his prime. There must be something in our lives of a more rosy hue than this to give care the go-by, and to cast a glow upon the paths of our later years. And to this end it were well to take what adventures we may, and when we may; not to put off the period of enjoyment until such time as we have attained the unattainable, lost for ever the eager zest of youth; but while the blood still runs freshly to lay by some slight stock of pleasure that may sweeten our future existence and make us ready to greet even misfortune with a cheery smile."

The desultory essayist is your true crusader against such as "sow hurry and reap indigestion."

There is little in common between these two books, save that in both there is a return to an almost neglected form of literature. The defects of one, indeed, are the qualities of the other. Both volumes are seriously meant, conscientiously con-

trived. Both authors are unknown, or scarcely known. To each of them is due a substantial measure of success, though that accorded to Mr. Watson will probably be of the more lasting, if less speedily obvious, kind.

PERCY ADDLESHAW.

NEW NOVELS.

The Courtship of Morrice Buckler. By A. E. W. Mason. (Macmillans.)

Basile the Jester. By J. E. Muddock. (Chatto & Windus.)

A Sweet Disorder. By Norma Lorimer. (Innes.)

The 'Vangelist o' Zion. By Tom Elford. (Digby, Long & Co.)

Tregarthen. By G. Norway. In 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

A Woman with a History. By Weedon Grossmith. (White.)

Tales Told by the Fireside. By the Rev. Chas. D. Bell, D.D. (Elliot Stock.)

An Engagement. By Sir Robert Peel, Bart. (Constable.)

The Rajah's Sapphire. By M. P. Shiel. (Ward, Lock & Co.)

The Second Opportunity of Mr. Staplehurst. By W. Pett Ridge. (Hutchinson.)

ALTHOUGH the courtship of Morrice Buckler took place two hundred years ago and more, the story of his staunch friendship for Sir Julian Harnwood, his betrayed comrade, of his love for the fair Countess Lukstein, and of his strange adventures, has a potent charm. The author, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, writes in a way admirably suited to his romantic theme, and the main incidents are strong and impressive. Morrice himself relates the events that chanced to him between 1685 and 1687: quaintly and distinctively he tells of his student life at Leyden; his hurried departure for London; his ride thence, in hot haste, by the quiet village of Knightsbridge, through Newbury and past the Half-way House at Wickham Heath to Bristol, where Sir Julian lay, in the Bridewell gaol, prior to his execution. Buckler's secret journey to the Tyrol, his surreptitious entry into the rock-bound Castle of Lukstein one midnight when the snow weighed down the branches of the pines and lay thick upon the jagged mountain peaks, together with the bloody events of that white night, are told dramatically, forcibly, and with reserve. Alike in conception and treatment, the tragic scene in the Tyrolean Castle is a fine piece of work. The author's description of life in London, although not destitute of many felicitous touches, is below the level of the first and last portions of the book: here the plot drags somewhat, and several of the incidents are treated at unnecessary length. Mr. Mason is evidently alive to the cumulative effect of appropriate language in a seventeenth century romance; in the main, he has achieved success in this direction, but words such as "enheartened" are blemishes. The gallants and adventurers of Monmouth's time and the environment in which they lived are vividly depicted. Morrice Buckler

was a native of Cumberland; and his frequent allusions to his mountain-girt home will be fully appreciated by those who have read *The Romance of Wasdale*, to which the present book is a worthy successor. Every page bears evidence not of knowledge only, but of knowledge kindled into fire.

Mr. J. E. Muddock has written several good stories, but in his new historical romance, *Basile the Jester*, he is not seen at his best. The book is long—unwarrantably long, when the nature of the plot and the way in which it is treated be taken into account. The reader feels that Mr. Muddock has not lived with his characters: indeed, many of them have not taken shape in his mind, and he pulls them hither and thither in a very arbitrary way. Some of the descriptive passages, too, are overlaid with detail, which blurs the picture and retards the movement of the story. On the other hand, the author has taken pains to represent truthfully and effectively the life and times of Mary Queen of Scots, the Court intrigues of the period, the plots and counter-plots of the nobles. Had Mr. Muddock digested his material with a little more care, and paid greater heed to the details of plot and characterisation, *Basile the Jester*, readable book as it stands, would have been a genuinely acceptable historical romance.

A Sweet Disorder is a sentimental title rather suggestive of weakness. If intended as a definition of the love finally aroused in the heart of Molly Collister by Colonel Dacre, that straightforward young woman would have been the first to protest against its inadequacy. The story which Miss Norma Lorimer has thus unfortunately named is, however, brightly and pleasantly told. If the conversations are not brilliant, they are never dull, sometimes they are clever. Although we do not find any flashes of extraordinary insight, several of the chapters might well be transcripts from life. The author has wisely taken account of her powers, and that which she has set herself to do she has accomplished simply and creditably. The central figure in *A Sweet Disorder* is a high-spirited young girl, half-Manx, half-Irish, who, with her friend Daisy, comes to London to earn her living as governess or journalist—occasionally, indeed, she appears at evening At Homes as a skirt-dancer, and at one time the severity of her struggle compelled her to accept the position of waitress in a Bond-street afternoon tea-shop. She is not the unnatural New Woman of the newspapers, though in her early days the idea of marriage was as gall to her. Nevertheless, it is not surprising to learn that in the end she “confessed to Dacre that love was almost as good as independence.”

Mr. Tom Elford has written twelve commendably brief chapters, which are published under the title of *The Vangelist o' Zion*. The unwrought plot is so shadowy as to be hardly distinguishable; the equally shadowy characters, or rather bundles of qualities loosely strung together, act and speak in a way that, to say the least, does not stimulate the reader's interest either intellectually or emotionally. Several scraps of East Anglian

folk-lore are interpolated without apparent reason, and the author's style is undistinguished.

The number of Selbys introduced to the reader by Mr. Norway in the opening chapters of his book is prodigious. There are Miss Selby, Miss Letitia Selby, and Miss Rose Selby, the old maiden ladies; Mr. and Mrs. Selby and their ten children, Mabel and Horace, Stephen and Amanda, one or two sets of twins, a baby, “the tithe-offering,” and many more. In addition to this tribe of genuine Selbys, there is a host of other people who ought to bear that name; for the family likeness between the characters is unmistakable. Tregarthen, in the parish of Withiel, where these innumerable Selbys lived, is on the Cornish coast, within sight of bold headlands and gaunt cliffs, within sound of the voice of the sea. It were well if the author had caught some of the force of the endless sea-song, if he had permeated *Tregarthen* with something of the wildness and the grandeur of that western coast. But the beat of the ocean is never audible, and the book is sadly lacking in dignified thought. Little Selbys “stroll along the edge of the waves,” and throughout everyone strolls along the edge of something.

Esme Harding, the heroine of Mr. Weedon Grossmith's little volume,

“was one of God's most beautiful structures. . . . She was tall and commanding-looking, and walked slowly into the room with an undulating grace all her own. Her great hazel eyes, half shaded by curling black lashes, gazed scornfully into the small angry ones of her husband. Her complexion was bright and glowing, and the gaslight lit up to perfection the splendour of her bronze hair that glistened like gold.”

This dream of loveliness has a past which stretches a very long way back, and her troubles are accentuated when the man she loves deserts her because he suspects that she is implicated in her husband's death. Finally, however, the clouds break, she is married to Harcourt, and “reviews the whole sad past as an unhealthy dream.” Universally admired, widely beloved, and adored by her husband, “she watches over his happiness as a good wife will, smoothing the crumpled leaves, and keeping herself well posted in all the current literature of the day so that she may be the chosen companion of his mind.” As will be seen, Mr. Weedon Grossmith has freely employed the theatrical paint in his descriptions as well as in the portrayal of the principal characters. *A Woman with a History*, as a sensational story, is distinctly readable, for it is happily conceived and racily written.

For the eight stories contained in the Rev. Dr. Bell's little volume, *Tales Told by the Fireside*, the author is indebted respectively to his father, his mother, his uncle, his aunt, his grandmother, his cousin, and the vicar. Each of the narratives is prefaced by a brief description of these personages, and their characteristic qualities; thus the reader becomes acquainted with a number of Dr. Bell's relatives. As the title indicates, the tales were first told round the family hearth by those to whom the events were very real experiences. It may

well be that in such circumstances they were heard with pleasure and profit, for a moral is not far to seek in most of them. In print, however, they lack the charm of the spoken word, the convincing ring of the narrator's voice, the spell of his personality; and notwithstanding evident sincerity and genuine feeling, the author has not replaced what is thus lost by the literary quality necessary to secure the volume a ready welcome.

In *An Engagement* Sir Robert Peel proves that he can tell a short love-story succinctly and with considerable force. Arnold Hopetoun, a younger son of aristocratic parentage, who draws a paltry £500 a year for his arduous work at the Foreign Office, is secretly engaged to a heartless flirt beneath him in station. Notwithstanding all his persuasions, she refuses to marry Hopetoun on such a pittance; and in order to make his lazy old uncle bestir himself, Arnold enters into a sham engagement with his charming cousin, Kate Drillingham. Sir Robert Peel makes the most of the situation thus created, though we cannot agree with him that any ethical problem is presented. The conversations are brief and incisive, and the writer understands the value of reserve. *An Engagement* is a dangerous book to place in the hands of a Radical ratepayer, for Arnold Hopetoun's services to the nation seem to be nominal rather than actual.

The first page of *The Rajah's Sapphire* is sufficiently entertaining. On it the author describes the hero who “felt as if he lacked part of himself, like an animal whose tail has been decapitated.” He was love-sick, and according to his creator, “a frame without a heart is something like an egg without salt.” It is well that Mr. M. P. Shiel has interpolated the qualifying “something.” The heroine was “loveliness itself to see, and her nightly eyes, flashing scorn and anger, outshone all jewels whatever.” The “whatever,” if redundant, has a savour of Gaelic. The third important personage was seen with “utter distinctness” by the hero: “it was the lurid-lit face of the man who steered the *Treaty* into the vitals of the *Nelf*.” We are told that the plot of this story was given to the author by Mr. W. T. Stead. Unfortunately, the construction and characterisation do not rise above the level of the style exhibited in the passages we have quoted.

The moral of Mr. W. Pett Ridge's clever little fantasy is that journalists should beware of writing articles in which they take up the cudgels on Jove's behalf, especially if they proceed to add a few words in favour of his spouse Juno. In *The Second Opportunity of Mr. Staplehurst*, it transpires that, after the middle-aged man of letters had partaken of a Vagabond, or rather a Nomad, dinner, Jove rejuvenated him, and he plunged afresh into the heyday of life, having all his former experience to guide him. It must be admitted, however, that Jove played some unpleasant pranks on his protégé—pranks that were about to end in a prolonged visit, free of charge, to one of Her Majesty's prisons when, in the nick of time, Staplehurst found himself once more

in his snug little Chelsea home, ready to welcome his wife on her return from abroad. The agreeable and facile style of the author is lighted up here and there by flashes of genuine humour.

FRANK RINDER.

TWO "TIMES" CORRESPONDENTS.

The Far Eastern Question. By Valentine Chirol. (Macmillans.) We gather from a prefatory letter addressed by the author to Mr. Arthur Walter that his book is founded on a series of letters lately written for the *Times*. Mr. Chirol, who was at Peking during the late war between China and Japan, is a capable and pleasant writer, who understands his subject thoroughly. He shows how the war has laid bare the immeasurable rottenness of China, hitherto concealed under a venerable cloak of an ancient civilisation, and has finally disposed of the once universally received idea that China had a vast though latent reserve of power.

"A more hopeless spectacle of fatuous imbecility, made up in equal parts of arrogance and helplessness, than the central government of the Chinese Empire presented after the actual pressure of war had been removed it is almost impossible to conceive."

So writes the author after describing an interview with Li Hung Chang at Tientsin, on his way back from Peking. The Viceroy inquired why he had remained so much longer than he had originally intended in the Chinese capital; the answer was, that he had been looking for some sign of the awakening of China. "I hope," rejoined the Viceroy with a grim smile, "that your time has not been wasted." As the war found the Government and governing classes of China, so it left them. The gigantic system of plunder carried on by the official class is sufficiently illustrated by a comparison of the revenue from customs at the ports under the charge of Sir Robert Hart and those under the charge of Chinese officials. Sir Robert has the control of four Chinese ports, which, under his able management, yield together a revenue of three million taels, while the forty ports where the customs are collected by native officials produce, or at least pay in, less than half a million taels! The chapter entitled "The Genesis of Missionary Outrage in China" is one of the most interesting in the book. Mr. Chirol attributes the hostility of the governing class in China to missionaries of all denominations alike not to any religious feeling, but to the civilising influences which radiate over the whole area of missionary operations.

"Herein lies," he writes, "to a great extent the secret of the hostility displayed, especially among the official classes in China, towards the missionaries. The influence of Western civilisation, in whatever shape it manifests itself, is an abomination in the eyes of the rulers of China, whose days would be counted were it ever to permeate the masses. The hatred directed against the missionaries is only a peculiarly virulent form of the hatred directed against Europeans generally; and it is easy to understand why it should be a peculiarly virulent one. Missionary work is practically the only agency through which the influence of Western civilisation can at present reach the masses. . . . The missionary alone goes out into the byways as well as the highways, and, whether he resides in a treaty port or in some remote province, strives to live with and among and for the people. The life which he lives, whether it be the ascetic life of the Roman Catholic missionary or the family life of a Protestant missionary with wife and children, is in itself a standing reproach to the life of gross self-indulgence led by the average mandarin. But in the eyes of the latter it becomes a public scandal when, in glaring contrast to every vice of native rule, the foreign missionary in his daily dealings

with the people of his district conveys a continuous object-lesson of justice and kindness, of unselfishness and integrity."

All outrages on missionaries have their origin in the intrigues of the official class. It is that class which invents and propagates the horrible accusations levelled against the missionaries, and incites the lower orders against them. The author holds that all European Governments, and more especially our own, have been too remiss in exacting due punishment for these ever-recurring outrages. The highest officials of the provinces in which the outrage occurs must be held personally responsible. We think that the publishers should have been above putting into Mr. Chirol's book an old map prepared to illustrate the Life of Sir Henry Parkes. What is wanted is a map that will mark the course of the late war, and will show the advance of Russia in illustration of Mr. Chirol's political chapters.

Madagascar in War Time. By E. F. Knight. (Longmans.) We owe this delightful book to the author having been sent to Madagascar as war correspondent by the *Times*. The French Government having refused to allow any foreign correspondents to accompany their army, it was decided that Mr. Knight should make his way to Antananarivo and see the fighting from the Hova side. This was no easy matter, owing to the blockade of the coast maintained by the French. He landed at Fort Dauphin in company with a member of the London Missionary Society; and the two travelled together to the capital through a country much of it hitherto unvisited by any European. Of this country, its people, and its "kings" Mr. Knight gives an excellent account. Long before he reached Antananarivo his eyes were opened to the true character of the Hova Government:

"As corrupt as the worst of Oriental states, without possessing any of the inherent strength and capacity to cope with emergencies often displayed by the latter. It was a machine for robbing, not for fighting. It was ridiculously impotent in the hour of danger, and it was full time that the great Hova bubble was pricked."

It rarely happens that an independent nation is conquered without its misfortunes arousing some feelings of pity or regret, but for the Hovas one can feel nothing but contempt. Mr. Knight had ample opportunities of studying the characteristics of this once dominant race—he was with them at the most critical period of their history; and he found them false, cruel, cowardly, and corrupt. How could such a people, devoid of any strength of character, have become the dominant power they were? It seems certain that they were formerly possessed of some force of character, which they have since lost; and it would seem that the veneer of civilisation which is the result of missionary teaching has replaced stronger, if more savage, qualities. Mr. Knight considers Hova religion but skin deep, and he does not think much of the present generation of missionaries; he makes, however, a marked distinction between the old missionary and the new. Describing his companion, Mr. J. Pearse, he writes:

"He is a missionary of the old sort: that is, a man who honestly endeavours to do good, who speaks the truth about the people, neither exaggerating the results of the mission work among them nor veiling their faults; not the man to give a glowing but quite misleading description of 'Christian Madagascar' for the gratification of a suburban mission meeting; a Dissenter of broad views, and no narrow-minded bigot full of prejudices against all who do not agree with the tenets of his sect. There are, I am glad to say, other missionaries like him in Madagascar. There are others very unlike him."

Had the Hova Government possessed a modicum of patriotism, and the Hova people a little courage, the French must have been annihilated. Mr. Knight gives a pitiable picture of their sufferings; nothing could have been worse than the blunders committed by the French administration. Will the same blunders be committed in the event of an European war? On the other hand, the commander-in-chief, General Duchesne, deserves great credit for his conduct of the campaign. He preserved a rigorous discipline, and punished any soldier found looting with the utmost severity. The soldiers paid for everything they required, and their behaviour was admirable. It is hardly necessary to say anything in praise of Mr. Knight's style; everyone who has read *Where Three Empires Meet* will be certain to send for the present volume, and when they have it they will certainly enjoy it.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MESSRS. BRADBURY, AGNEW & Co. have made arrangements to issue *The Political Life of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone*, illustrated from *Punch*. The illustrations will nearly all consist of reproductions of cartoons and sketches that have appeared in our contemporary; while the historical record will be a continuous narrative, only partly drawn from the same source. The mode of publication is to be in twenty-one monthly parts, of which the first will appear on May 20. It will have for frontispiece a photograph of a portrait of Mr. Gladstone at the age of twenty-eight, by W. Bradley, which is now at Hawarden Castle.

MESSRS. CHATTO & WINDUS will publish shortly a new volume by Mr. Swinburne, to be called *The Tale of Balen*.

THE Rev. Charles H. Simpkinson, rector of Farnham, is engaged on a memoir of the late Bishop of Winchester, which will be published by Messrs. Isbister & Co.

MR. ANDREW TUEB's forthcoming *History of the Horn-Book*, from which in early days our ancestors learned their A B C, is dedicated by command to the Queen, and is the third book written by the author thus distinguished. He has been able to discover about 150 examples of horn-books still in existence, which are all described in his pages. The work will be in two quarto volumes, illustrated with two copperplate frontispieces, and 300 other engravings. Recessed in the inside covers are to be some facsimiles of horn-books from rare examples. The edition is limited to 1000 copies, of which a large portion have been disposed of to Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York.

MESSRS. WILLIAMS & NORGATE will shortly publish a reprint, with appendices, of three letters which Mr. Herbert Spencer has lately written to the *Times* against the adoption of the metric system. In this pamphlet Mr. Spencer advocates the re-organisation of our system of numeration on the duodecimal system, in preference to re-organising our weights and measures on the decimal system.

MR. T. FISHER UNWIN announces a volume of *English Studies*, by the late James Darmesteter, with a preface by his widow, and a photograph portrait. The following are the subjects of some of the twelve chapters: "The French Revolution and Wordsworth," "Irish Literature and Ossian," "Oliver Madox Brown," and "The Poetry of Mary Robinson." It was by the last of these, we believe, that he won his introduction to his wife.

MESSRS. RICHARD BENTLEY & SON have in the press the *Diaries and Letters of General Windham*, of Redan fame, during the Crimean War.

UNDER the title of *The Dawn of Modern Geography*, Mr. John Murray will publish at an early date a book by Mr. Raymond C. Beazley, the biographer of Henry the Navigator, giving a history of travel and geographical science in the early middle ages. It is based mainly upon the writings of Viking explorers, Arab students, and Christian pilgrims; and will be illustrated with reproductions of the principal maps of the time.

MR. GEORGE D. LESLIE, R.A., has written a continuation to that charming volume "Letters to Marco," to which he gives the more significant title of *Riverside Letters*. It will be published shortly by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., in handsome form, with illustrations by the author.

THE next volume of the "Cambridge Historical Series," which is now in the press, will be *Ireland to the Year 1868*, by Judge O'Connor Morris.

MESSRS. JAMES MACLEHOSE & SONS, publishers to the University of Glasgow, will issue early in May *The Authorship of the King's Quair*, a new criticism, from the pen of Mr. J. T. T. Brown, calling in serious question the laurel hitherto worn by James I.

MESSRS. G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS propose to add to their series of "Writings of the Fathers of the Republic" a collection of the works of President Monroe, in four volumes, to be edited by Mr. S. M. Hamilton, keeper of the MSS. in the State Department at Washington; and also the Constitutional Decisions of Chief Justice Marshall, with an historical introduction by Mr. Simon Sterne, of the New York bar.

The Jaws of Death, by Mr. Grant Allen, will form the first of a new series which Messrs. Jarrold & Sons will shortly publish under the title of "The Daffodil Library," in a dainty shape and tasteful binding.

MESSRS. ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & Co. announce a new novel by Miss Fiona Macleod, entitled *Green Fire*.

MESSRS. HUTCHINSON & Co. will publish shortly a novel by Mr. Frederic Carrel, entitled *The City*, which deals largely with company promotion and so-called "finance."

MESSRS. JARROLD & SONS will shortly issue an authorised translation of Maurus Jokai's *Black Diamonds*, by Miss Frances A. Gerard.

TWO new volumes of verse are announced for immediate publication by Mr. Elliot Stock: *Lays of the Heather*, by Miss A. C. Macdonald; and *Loving Whispers*, by Mr. E. M. Pledge.

MESSRS. GEORGE NEWNES & Co. will publish early in May *New Ground in Norway*, by Mr. E. J. Goodman, author of "The Best Tour in Norway," with illustrations from photographs taken by Mr. Paul Lange of Liverpool. These gentlemen travelled together last summer through the districts of Ringerike, Telemarken, and Saetersdalen, as well as along the south coast of Norway, ground but little known to English tourists—hence the title.

THE seventh and concluding book of the series of Historical Reading Books, which Mr. H. O. Arnold Forster has written, under the title of "Things New and Old," is issued this week. The volume contains the story of English history from the accession of George I. down to the present date, with numerous illustrations and authentic portraits.

A POPULAR Analysis of Poetry, dealing with its nature, power, and art, with exercises and examples, by the Rev. W. H. Stanley, will be issued by Messrs. Abbott, Jones & Co. in the course of a few days.

THE second number of the *Savoy*, to be published immediately by Mr. Leonard Smithers,

will contain literary contributions from the late Paul Verlaine, Cesare Lombroso, Edmund Gosse, Frederick Wedmore, W. B. Yeats, &c.; while the illustrations will include work by Joseph Pennell, C. H. Shannon, Will Rothenstein, Walter Sickert, and Aubrey Beardsley.

Chapman's Magazine of Fiction, which begins the second year of its life with the May number, will henceforth be somewhat increased in bulk. Besides a second instalment of the serial by John Oliver Hobbes, there will be short stories by Messrs. Henry James, W. L. Alden, F. C. Phillips, Eden Philpotts, Miss Violet Hunt, and Miss Clara Saville Clarke.

THE Bishop of Peterborough, Captain Younghusband, and Mr. Henry Craik, will be among the speakers at the Literary Fund dinner on Wednesday next, at which the Earl of Crewe takes the chair.

THE following have been elected by the committee to be members of the Athenaeum Club: Dr. James Little, late president of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland; Dr. John Murray, editor of the reports of the *Challenger* expedition; and Mr. E. Linley Sambourne, the artist in black and white.

FROM Monday to Friday of next week, Messrs. Sotheby will be engaged in selling the library of the late Lord Coleridge, which is of interest as showing the personal tastes of its owner. It is especially rich in the publications of literary societies—Lord Coleridge even had the extra series of the Early English Texts bound in green morocco; and in the reprints of J. P. Collier, Grosart, Arber, Goldsmid, and Bullen. Modern poets are well represented, Browning having presented many of his volumes—one with the inscription: "To the Attorney-General, nisi quid tu, docte Trebatii, dissentis! Trebatii gratias agens R. B."; and there seems to be a complete set of William Watson. Rarities dear to bibliophiles are not wanting: such as the Nuremberg Chronicle, Chapman's Homer, Gould's Humming Birds, Ruskin's *Stones of Venice*, Linton's *Masters of Wood Engraving*, and the Grillon Club portraits.

MR. GLADSTONE'S attention having been called to a mention of his name in a review of Dr. Baxter's *Sanctuary and Sacrifice*, that appeared in the ACADEMY of April 11, writes as follows:

"It gave me the first intimation I have ever had of remarks by [Mr. Benn] on some things said by me in reference to Wellhausen.

"I have given no opinion on Dr. Baxter's book, nor do I think myself competent to give one. But I gave an opinion on some tracts by him published about two years ago. Of these tracts I thought, and think, that—unless and until they be answered—Wellhausen has undergone in them nothing less than a disgraceful exposure.

"I believe they constitute the opening portions of Dr. Baxter's book."

UNIVERSITY JOTTINGS.

MR. STANLEY M. LEATHES, of Trinity, has been appointed assistant-registrar at Cambridge for a period of three years. Mr. Leathes is understood to be preparing for publication some of the earliest records of the university.

DR. A. A. KANTHACK, of St. John's, has been appointed deputy for the professor of pathology at Cambridge for a period of three months.

LAST week the following honorary degrees were conferred by the University of Durham, the Convocation being held, for the first time under the supplementary charter, at the Newcastle College of Science: the degree of D.D.

upon the new Bishop of Newcastle and the Armenian arch-priest, Sukias Baronian; and the degree of D.C.L. upon Sir David Dale, Prof. Arnison, Dr. Dallingier, and Principal Gurney.

SIR E. MAUNDE THOMPSON, principal librarian of the British Museum, proposes to deliver four lectures at Cambridge this term, in his capacity as the first Sandars reader in bibliography. Two lectures will deal with the history of Greek handwriting, from the third century B.C. to the third century A.D.; another with Latin handwriting down to the middle ages; and the fourth with early handwriting in England, showing its derivation from the Hiberno-Latin character. The lectures will be illustrated by means of lantern-slides.

PROF. EDWARD DOWDEN proposes to deliver a course of six lectures at Cambridge this term, as Clark lecturer in English literature at Trinity College. His general subject is "Eighteenth Century Men of Letters"; and he will deal more particularly with Swift, Pope, the English periodical essay, and Johnson as a critic of life.

AT Oxford Mr. E. de Selincourt, of University, is lecturing this term for the professor of English, on "Elizabethan Non-dramatic Poetry"; while Prof. Napier himself lectures on "Old English Literature."

SIR JOHN STAINER will deliver a public lecture in the Sheldonian Theatre at Oxford next Monday, on "The Secular Compositions of Dufay (ob. circa 1400)."

ON Wednesday and Friday of next week M. Jean Réville (professor of ecclesiastical history in the Ecole des Hautes Etudes) will deliver two lectures, in French, at Manchester College, Oxford, on "The Beginnings of the Roman Episcopate," dealing separately with the historical and the traditional data.

TWO public lectures were to be delivered at Oxford towards the end of this week: by Prof. H. H. Turner, on "The Total Solar Eclipse of August 9," illustrated with lantern-slides; and by Prof. F. Y. Edgeworth, on "The Use and Method of Statistics."

THE Rev. Dr. Edmond Warre, headmaster of Eton, and Prof. Alfred Marshall, of Cambridge, have been elected honorary fellows of Balliol.

THE accounts of the University of London for the financial year ending March 31, 1895, show that the total receipts from fees amounted to £18,410, of which £5912 was derived from matriculation, £5675 from Arts, £6035 from medicine and science, and £512 from law. Ten years ago the income from fees was £9515, and twenty years ago only £4203.

THE Rev. Dr. E. Moore, principal of St. Edmund Hall, proposes to deliver six lectures at University College, London, as Barlow Lecturer on Dante, on Wednesdays and Thursdays during May, at 3 p.m. The first of the course, to be given on May 13, will be on "The Geography of Dante," with special reference to passages in the *Purgatorio*. The remainder will consist of notes and comments on Cantos II. to IV. of the *Purgatorio*, in continuation of the course delivered last February.

MR. G. H. BLAKESLEY has been appointed to the lectureship in law at Gresham College, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Abdy.

THE catalogue of Lord Coleridge's library, to be sold next week at Sotheby's, contains a "fine and perfect copy" of *Purchas His Pilgrims*, with the following inscription on the frontispiece:—"Liber Collegii Omnium Animarum Fidelium Defunctorum de Oxon. pret. 15s. 1624." At what price will the college now be able to ransom it?

TRANSLATION.

THE LAST PRAYER OF DAVID STRAUSS.

[THE following verses, of which a translation has been attempted, were sent by David Strauss to a lady friend a few weeks before his death. They were written after he had long been suffering from a most cruel disease, borne with heroic cheerfulness and resignation. They will be found in the recently published correspondence of the eminent critic and biographer, edited by his friend, Prof. Ed. Zeller (Bonn, 1895). The second and third verses were quoted in an article by Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff, written not long after Strauss' death.]

"Wem ich dieses klage,
Weiss ich klage nicht;
Der ich dieses sage,
Fühlt ich zage nicht.

"Heute heisst's: verglimmen
Wie ein Licht verglimmt;
In die Luft verschwimmen
Wie ein Ton verschwimmt.

"Möge schwach wie immer,
Aber hell und rein,
Dieser letzte Schimmer,
Dieser Ton nur sein."

Let me not bewray it,
Call not this a wall;
She to whom I say it
Feels I do not quail.

As a spent note sighing
Breathes itself away,
As a low light dying,
Life goes out to-day.

Yet, though weak and weaker,
May my last note here,
May my light's last flicker
Still be pure and clear.

ALFRED W. BENN.

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

THE April number of the *English Historical Review* (Longmans) contains an article entitled "Thomas Warton and Mackyn's Diary," which contains—we regret to say—a damnatory impeachment of the whilom poet laureate, professor of poetry, and friend of Doctor Johnson. The author is the Rev. H. E. D. Blakiston, a fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, who has made a study of the archives of that house, of which Warton was also a fellow. On undertaking to write a memoir of Sir Thomas Pope, the founder, for the Dictionary of National Biography, he has naturally examined closely the Life of him by Warton, especially as he had already found reason to doubt Warton's accuracy. The present charge is one not of inaccuracy, but of deliberate falsification of documentary evidence. In his Life of Pope, Warton purports to quote from a specified document various stories about Elizabeth's stay at Hatfield during the reign of her sister Mary, in which Pope's name figures conspicuously. Doubt has already been cast upon the authenticity of these stories by a French student of English history, M. Louis Wiesener. Mr. Blakiston now subjects them to a searching analysis, with the result not only of demonstrating that they never existed in the document, but also of unravelling the tortuous devices with which Warton bolstered up his fabrication. The curious thing about the whole business is that Warton had nothing whatever to gain, except fictitious glory for the founder. The conduct of Chatterton or Psalmazar one can understand; but this seems to be as futile a deception as the Shakspeare Folio of J. P. Collier. We may add that the same number of the *English Historical Review* has an elaborate study of all the facts recorded about Magister Vacarius, the first teacher of Roman law in England, by Prof. Liebermann.

ON BOOK-WORMS.

WE quote from the *Nation*, of New York, the following account of the recent finding of book-worms in the library of Cornell University, written by Mr. Willard Austin, the librarian:

"On the 7th day of May, 1893, while working in the catalogue department of the University library, there came to hand a copy of Dante's 'Divine Comedy,' printed at Venice in the year 1536. It had been received through the mails a short time before direct from Italy, and bore on the title-page a stamped device consisting of a crown and, underneath, the words ARCELLI M.-CANINO. The old leather cover was perforated with many holes about the size of a pin-head, which is not an uncommon sight to those accustomed to handle old books. Many volumes come to hand during a year bearing such scars, but almost never is the insect found which does the boring. Examining the leaves of the volume, it was found that the worms had not done much damage. The title-page was pierced in eight places, but the holes extended through only a few leaves. Twenty-two holes were found through the back leaves, and they went somewhat deeper than those in the front of the book. Close down in the hinge of the book cover were found several little fat grubs, resembling those sometimes found in a hazel nut. These were taken to the entomological laboratory, where they were found to be alive and sufficiently interesting to be worth studying. From these larvae were developed small brown beetles, and further investigation proved them to belong to the genus known in this country as *Sitodrepa panicea*, and in Europe as *Anobium paniceum*. This species belongs to the family *Ptinidae*, or Death-watch, and the order *Coleoptera*. It was first described by Frisch in 1721. There are two other species of this genus, *Anobium pertinax* and *Anobium eruditum*, and in the larva state all three are so much alike as to be scarcely distinguishable one from another.

"The often-quoted account of the finding by M. Peignot of twenty-seven folios perforated by one insect is mentioned by Blades as an instance of the work of this insect, but it is not quite clear whether the boring was done by *Anobium pertinax* or *Sitodrepa panicea*. The *Library Journal* (vol. x., p. 131) mentions the finding of real book-worms by Richard Savage, librarian of Stratford-on-Avon, in April, 1885. These were the *Sitodrepa panicea*. F. J. Havergal, librarian of Hereford Cathedral, reported the finding of at least a dozen genuine book-worms during his eighteen years' experience, from 1853-71. In the year 1858 William Blades found in the Bodleian Library a book-worm which he showed to the librarian, who at once killed him with his thumb nail. As none of the insects in the above cases were scientifically studied, it is impossible to say to what species they belonged; but, from the general description given, they undoubtedly belonged to the genus *Anobium*.

"In this country one or two instances of the finding of book-worms have been recorded. In 1888 H. S. Kephart, at that time cataloguer in the Yale University Library, found some worms. After keeping them for about six months, he sent all that were left to Prof. Comstock at Cornell. Only one was found to be alive when they reached here, and so nothing could be done towards determining to what species they belonged. Recently, Mr. B. C. Steiner reported the finding of a book-worm about two years ago in the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, but again not enough came to hand to enable any one to determine where in the book-worm family it belonged."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE AUTHOR OF "THE CUCKOO AND THE NIGHTINGALE."

Cambridge: April 25, 1896.

OF this poem there are five extant MSS.—viz., F. (Fairfax 16), B. (Bodley 638), T. (Tanner 346), Ar. (Arch. Selden, B. 24), and Ff. (Ff. i. 6, in the Cambridge University Library). My observation that there is a sixth copy in MS., Harl. 7333, is a mistake, due to note 6 in vol. i., p. ix., of Morris's *Chaucer*, where his statement—"collated with Harl. 7333, and Bodleian Seld. B. 24" does not refer to "The Cuckoo

and Nightingale," as one would naturally suppose, but to "The Assembly of Foules," which happens to be mentioned immediately above.

I noticed long ago that at the end of Ff. is the colophon "Explicit Clanvowe," written with unmistakable clearness. But it is only lately that I have made out the meaning of this. When we find a name at the end of a poem, it refers, naturally, to the author or to the scribe. But there is a difference. The scribe generally gives his name only, or else prefixes to it the word "quod." There is an instance in this very MS., where Chaucer's "Parliament of Foules" occurs, with the note "Explicit Parliamentum Avium, quod W. Calverley."

The word "quod" sometimes refers to the author; see my *Chaucer*, i. 359, last line. But when "explicit" is used, the following word naturally refers either to the poem (as above) or to the author, not to the scribe. We even have a case where the colophon is in English, "here endis Barbour," &c.

"Clanvowe" seems a strange name, but it was real enough in the time of Henry IV. and previously. Dr. Furnivall pointed out to me that in his preface to *Hoccleve's Poems* (p. x.), a Sir John Clanvowe is mentioned as having served in Scotland in 1385, but he is supposed to have died before 1390. But there was a Thomas Clanvowe who, in Wylie's *History of Henry IV.* (iii. 333), is mentioned as being a friend of Prince Hal, at a time when the Prince was still friendly to "freethinkers and Lollards." And this may have been the very man, as the poem alludes in a complimentary way to "the Queen at Woodstock."

For we can date the poem in this wise. The metre of it is copied from Chaucer's envoy to "The Complaint to his Purse"; and, whatever be the date of this complaint, the date of the envoy is known to be 1399. Again, the title "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale" is unauthorised, and due to Thynne. The only MS. title is that in MS. B.: namely, "The Book of Cupid, God of Love." This title is imitated from Hoccleve's poem, "The Letter of Cupid, God of Love," and the poem is in defence of true love as known to "every trewe gentil herte and free." That is why the first two lines of the poem quote (from Chaucer):

"The God of love! Ah, benedicite,
How mighty and how grete a lord is he."

Clanvowe did not take the title of his poem from Christine de Pisan, because her title runs somewhat differently (omitting Cupid); and, moreover, chronology is against it. Christine's poem was not written till May, 1399, and must have taken time to get to England; and there was no Queen of England after September, 1399, till after Hoccleve's poem appeared in 1402. Henry IV. married Johanna of Navarre on February 7, 1403; and she held as a part of her dower the manor and park of Woodstock (Wylie, ii. 284).

The family home of the Clanvowes can be traced. I find, from the Inquisitiones post Mortem, that, in 1339-40 Philip de Clannowe (read Clanuowe) held Rodney manor in the marches of Wales under de Mortimer; and in 1398-9, John Clanuowe held tenements under the same family situate in the honour of Wigmore (Herefordshire). In 1424-5 another John Clanuowe had land in Herefordshire under Edmund de Mortimer; so that we can safely locate them near Wigmore. Hence it was fitting that Thomas Clanvowe should have accompanied Henry of Monmouth in the mountains of Wales, as seems to be implied by Wylie (iii. 333).

The language of the poem is that of the very beginning of the fifteenth century; it is one of the best and earliest of the poems that imitate Chaucer's versification. The finale is used with

fair correctness; and the non-Chaucerian rimes are only two—viz., *grene* with *been*, and *upon* with *mon* (instead of *man*).

On the whole, the following hypothesis will suit the facts—namely, that the poem, imitating Chaucer's manner, and having a title imitated from Hoccleve's poem of 1402, was written by a Clanvowe, who may very well have been Thomas Clanvowe, who held Lollard opinions and was a friend (at one time) of Henry of Monmouth; and it was addressed to Henry's stepmother, Queen of England from 1403 to 1413, who held as a part of her dower the park and manor of Woodstock. If so, we should expect the poem to have been written before April, 1410, when Thomas Badby, the Lollard, was executed in the presence of the Prince of Wales.

I find another allusion to the name in Wylie's History (iii. 296):

"In Hereford and the far West, not Oldcastle alone, but the Actons, Cheynes, Clanvowes, Greindors, and many great gentlemen of birth, had begun to mell of Lollardy and drink the gall of heresy."

We further learn from the same (iii. 261) that Thomas Clanvowe was one of twenty-five knights who accompanied John Beaufort (son of John of Gaunt) to Barbary in 1390.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

THE RHONE CALLED ROSE (OR ROZE) IN PROVENÇAL.

Burleigh House, Sydenham Hill.

That this is so is shown by Mistral in his Dictionary of Modern Provençal, and by his use of *Rose* = *Fr. Rhône* in his *Mireille* (Paris, 1888), p. 100, &c. In Old Provençal the river was called *Roze* (see Bartsch's *Chrestomathie Provençale*, 4th ed., 1880, p. 392, 22). But Mistral, in his dictionary, tells us that it does not bear this name during the whole of its course. His words are: "La forme *Rose* est usitée entre Arles et Montélimar; on dit *Roueis* et *Rouei* devers Valence, *Roune* ou *Rone* devers Aubenas, et *Ro* du côté de Vienne." *Rose* is used, therefore, during the longest part of the river's southerly course, and is evidently considered by Mistral to be its chief Provençal name.

The *O* or *M.Fr.* form of *Rhône* was *Rosne*; and how the *Lat. Rhodanus*, or rather *Rhodanum*, became *Rosne* is well shown by Schwan in his *Gram. d. Altfr.* (2nd ed., 1893), sects. 105*, 146, 181, 239 (note 1). *Rhodanu* [m] first became *Rodne* and then *Rosne*, the *d* being changed into *s* as more easily pronounceable before *n*. Schwan does not pursue the changes beyond *Rosne*, but he tells us (sect. 239, note 1) that in French the nasals *n* and *m* remain after all consonants. We see, then, how it was that the *s* had to give way: first, no doubt, ceasing to be pronounced, and finally disappearing, though leaving a circumflex accent behind to mark its disappearance. This would give us *Rône*, and with the *h* after the *R*—reintroduced, I suppose, by some purist—*Rhône*.

In Southern Provençal, however, the *n* of *Rosne* seems to have been dropped and the *s* retained, and thus *Rose* was formed. The curious point about this is that the original *Rhodanus*, especially if put into Greek letters (*ῥοδανός*), must remind anyone knowing a little Greek of *ῥόδον*, "a rose"; and, indeed, Liddell and Scott give a doubtful adjective, *ῥοδαῖος* = *ῥοδίνος*, "made of roses." Not that I think that the name of the river

* In sect. 105 Schwan tells us that the *o* of *Rhodanu* (= *Rhodanum*) is open and has remained open in *Rosne*. Now, in French, the *o* in *Rhône* is certainly generally pronounced as long as the *o* in *Fr. rose*, and is, indeed, more *fermé*; and so it interested me last summer to hear a Nice gentleman when speaking French, pronounce *Rhône* with the *o* short and open, much as in our *on*.

had anything to do with roses, though they are so very abundant in that part of the South of France, and Mistral tells us that Plutarch thought it had; still the coincidence of form, especially when *Rhodanum* has become *Rose*, is remarkable. I say coincidence, because I see no reason for believing that the change had anything whatever to do with the settlement of Greek colonists in Provence. And there are, moreover, two differences: *Rose* = *Rhone* has remained masculine; *Roso* (*O. Prov. rosa, roza*) = *rose* is feminine, so that the gender is different, as well as the final vowel.

It is curious also, that, if Prof. Skeat is correct when he says that the *Lat. rosa* "is not a true Latin word, but borrowed from *Gr. ῥόδον*," here also, and quite independently, a med. *d* became an *s*. F. CHANCE.

PROF. KNIGHT AND MR. T. HUTCHINSON—AN EXPLANATION.

St. Andrews: April 24, 1896.

Will you kindly print a few words from me regarding a letter which appears in the *ACADEMY* of April 18, to which my attention has just been called? For some weeks I have been absent from home, and have received no papers. That I should be ungrateful or forgetful of the services rendered to me by Mr. Thomas Hutchinson in revising the proof-sheets of the first two volumes of my *Wordsworth* is an impossibility, and the omission of his name seemed to me also an impossibility until I re-examined my preface. The omission is a mystery to myself, and I am profoundly sorry that the accident should have occurred. All that I can now do is to make acknowledgment of Mr. Hutchinson's aid in a note in a subsequent volume. He need not fear that the full extent of his services will be overlooked.

As many copies of the proofs of the preface passed between me and the printers, the oversight may have arisen in this way. I mentioned both Mr. Hutchinson's services and those of Prof. Hill, of the Bengal Education Department, in what I thought was the final proof returned by me; but an earlier one must have been "passed for press" and printed off. It grieves me to think that, by the merest accident in the world, no mention is made of these two gentlemen—Mr. Hill's services were chiefly in discovering Wordsworth's indebtedness to earlier poets, and Mr. Hutchinson's in tracing earlier textual readings. I have always spoken to my publishers—and to every Wordsworth student—of Mr. Hutchinson, in the same terms in which Prof. Dowden has spoken of him. I found him more accurate than Mr. Dykes Campbell, and most accurate of all, with the exception of Mr. Kinghorn. In all his communications with me hitherto he has been kind and courteous. In explanation of his complaint that he "had not been favoured with the sight of an emended proof," I may add that he told me that he was in a very indifferent state of health, and naturally I abstained from troubling him with further revision, either of the proofs of vols. i. and ii., or of subsequent ones, more especially as the same kind of work—viz., the revision of earlier readings—was being undertaken by the publishers in London.

It is a pity that Mr. Hutchinson calls what he criticises "a re-issue of Prof. Knight's *Wordsworth*," when the preface tells him that it is "not a reproduction" of my former edition. It is also regrettable that he should ridicule a note, which he saw in a rough proof, which was never published, which was not mine, but was suggested to me by one of the Wordsworth students whom he praises.

I specially regret that the proof of vols. i. and ii. was put into Mr. Hutchinson's hands in such a very rough and unfinished state, because

of the additional work it gave him; but the same rough proof was sent to many other friends. WILLIAM KNIGHT.

Dublin: April 30, 1896.

If, indeed, the non-acknowledgment of which I complained to the *ACADEMY* is, as Prof. Knight suggests above, to be explained by the accidental printing-off of a wrong proof, then doubtless he is to be commiserated, and so perhaps, in some degree, am I. What, however, persuaded me that the omission of my name from his preface was deliberate was the extraordinary manner in which, a year before, our intercommunications ceased. When, according to our compact, having corrected and returned the sheets of vols. i. and ii., I was awaiting the sheets of vol. iii. and of the preface, Prof. Knight suddenly, and silently, receded from the engagement in which he had entered with me. If, as he says, his action was prompted by a regard for my health (which at this time he had reason to know was re-established), why did he not inform me that he was about to make fresh arrangements for the correction of the sheets? A line on a postcard would have sufficed, and would have rendered any subsequent misunderstanding impossible. His neglect of this obvious duty was, I am constrained to say, a breach of courtesy, and to the misapprehensions arising from which alone my letter to the *ACADEMY* is to be traced.

I regret if I have erred in applying the word "re-issue" to Prof. Knight's volumes. What should I have called them?—a "rifacimento," perhaps. After all, what is this new work but a re-issue, or second edition, revised and enlarged, of the old? No doubt it is better than the first, as a second edition ought to be. But it also contains sundry errors which are not to be found in the first edition, and which certainly did not appear in the proof-sheets of this one, when they passed out of my hands.

THOMAS HUTCHINSON.

THE SIN-EATER IN WALES.

Cardiff April 27, 1896.

Mr. J. P. Owen, writing under the above heading in the *ACADEMY* of April 25, seems to have mistaken the true meaning and etymology of *abeilon*, a term used in the neighbourhood of Llandilo, in Carmarthenshire. The *a*, probably, as Mr. Owen suggests, represents the article; but the word is composed of *y bylon* or *y mylon*, literally "edges" or "margins," and then "perquisites" or "gifts." The *bylon* of which Miss Beall speaks were the customary perquisites given in the neighbourhood of Llandeifisant, and are still in vogue in some parts of Wales. The term is used in other parts of Carmarthenshire, and also in North Wales. It is the plural form of *byl* or *myl*, "side," "edge," or "margin," and still heard in the phrase *hyd y fyl*, "to the brim," or "brimful." It is a good word, and should have found place in every Welsh dictionary; and it is somewhat strange that Chancellor Silvan Evans has not included it in his great work. Both forms, *bylon* and *mylon*, are heard in the neighbourhood of Newcastle Emlyn, a locality with which the Chancellor is well acquainted.

W. ELLIS EVANS.

PAMELA'S DAUGHTER.

Paris: April 25, 1896.

Mrs. Helen MacCorquodale, so unaccountably described in the *Times* as ninety-six years of age, yet as the daughter of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, who died ninety-eight years ago, must have been Pamela's daughter by her second husband, Pitsairn, the American consul at Hamburg.

In the Dictionary of National Biography I was only able to state that that daughter in 1835 was married and living in New York. In 1878, however, calling on the late Mr. Henry Reeve at the Hôtel du Danube, Paris, I mentioned that Pamela died in that hotel, whereupon a friend staying there with him informed me that that daughter was then living in the vicinity of Thames Ditton, whither Pamela's remains had been removed in 1880. Mrs. Mac-Corquodale's death at Richmond confirms that information.

J. G. ALGER.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

SUNDAY, May 3, 7 p.m. Ethical: "The Simplification of Life," by Mr. Herbert Rix.
 MONDAY, May 4, 4.30 p.m. Victoria Institute: "Evolution," by Dr. Kidd.
 5 p.m. Royal Institution: General Monthly Meeting.
 5 p.m. Hellenic: "Newly Discovered Paintings at Pompeii," by Mr. Talfourd Ely.
 8 p.m. Royal Society of British Architects: Annual General Meeting.
 8 p.m. Society of Arts: Cantor Lecture, "Applied Electro-Chemistry," II., by Mr. J. Swinburne.
 TUESDAY, May 5, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Ripples in Air and on Water," I., by Mr. C. V. Boys.
 3 p.m. Anglo-Russian: "The Tretiakoff Gallery of Pictures at Moscow," by Mr. E. A. B. Hodgetts.
 8 p.m. Biblical Archaeology: "The First Chapter of Genesis and the Babylonian Cosmogonies," by the Rev. P. J. Ball.
 8 p.m. Civil Engineers: "American and English Methods of Manufacturing Steel Plates," by Mr. Jeremiah Head; "Four American Rolling-Mills," by Mr. Samuel T. Wellman.
 8 p.m. Society of Arts: "Australia's Prospects in British Markets," by Mr. James F. Dowling.
 8.30 p.m. Zoological: "Little-known Batrachians from the Caucasus," by Mr. G. A. Boulenger; "Contributions to the Anatomy of Picarian Birds, II., the Pterylosis of the *Capitonidae*," by Mr. F. E. Beddard; "Contributions to the Study of Mammalian Dentition, III., the Teeth of certain Insectivora," by Mr. M. F. Woodward.
 WEDNESDAY, May 6, 4 p.m. Archaeological Institute: "Recent Discoveries of Mural Paintings at Willingham Church, Cambridgeshire, and elsewhere," II., by Mr. Charles E. Keyser; "Great Stones at Gozo, Malta, explored in 1893," by Dr. A. A. Carana.
 4.30 p.m. Royal Society of Literature: "Goethe and Modern Culture," by Dr. K. Lentzner.
 8 p.m. Society of Arts: "High Explosives and Smokeless Powder," by Mr. Hudson Maxim.
 8 p.m. Elizabethan: "Some French Criticisms of the Elizabethan Drama," by Mr. W. Hutchison.
 THURSDAY, May 7, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "The Art of Working Metals in Japan," I., by Mr. W. Gowland.
 8 p.m. Linnean: "The Tooth-Genesis of the Canidae," by Dr. H. Marett Tims; "Lantern Slides illustrative of the Habits of the Tiger Beetle (*Helicoides crassipes*)," by Mr. F. Enoch; "Preparations of the Hermaphrodite Glands of *Apus*," by Mr. H. M. Bernard.
 8 p.m. Chemical: "Luteolin," II., by Dr. A. G. Perkin; "Morin," I., by Drs. Hermann Bablick and A. G. Perkin.
 8 p.m. Civil Engineers: James Forrest Lecture, "Physical Experiment in relation to Engineering," by Dr. A. B. W. Kennedy.
 8.30 p.m. Antiquaries.
 FRIDAY, May 8, 9 p.m. Royal Institution: "Electric Shadows and Luminescence," by Prof. Silvanus P. Thompson.
 SATURDAY, May 9, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Three Emotional Composers, I., Berlioz," by Mr. F. Corder.
 3.45 p.m. Botanic: General Fortnightly Meeting.

SCIENCE.

"THE SACRED BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT."—Part XX., *The Books of Chronicles in Hebrew*. Printed in Colours exhibiting the Composite Structure of the Book, with Notes by B. Kittel, English Translation of the Notes by B. W. Bacon. (Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs; Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press; London: David Nutt.)

Not long after the edition of the Psalter by Wellhausen comes this excellent edition of *The Books of Chronicles* by Kittel, whose interest in the problems of the composition of the narrative books of the Old Testament is well known. It is a solid piece of work, and is certainly one of the best edited portions of the new Hebrew Old Testament.

Four colours are used—namely, dark red, for certain parts of 1 Chron. i.-xi., which the Chronicler derived from older sources not extant in the Canon; light red, for sections derived from passages preserved in our present Old Testament (especially Genesis, Samuel, and Kings); dark blue, for certain subsequent additions to the work of the Chronicler (such as 1 Chron. iv. 21-23); and light blue, for still later additions (e.g., 1 Chron. ii. 18-24). The critical notes have been translated by Dr. Bacon—a task of great delicacy, which has, it would seem, been performed with accuracy. Many points of much interest are touched upon. The very first note, relative to the comparative value of the two pronunciations Kainan (Septuagint and Vulgate) and Kenan (Masoretic text), is a real contribution to study. The notes on Hazarmaveth, Asarel, Meribaal, Issachar, Daniel son of David, also deserve reading. On the last-mentioned name, however, the student would have been grateful for a longer annotation, in which Klostermann would not have been neglected. Budde, in his edition of Samuel, affixes notes of interrogation to the strange form "Chileab." Why does Kittel substitute this name for "Daniel" without any attempt to explain it? The excellent note on the puzzling names of the Hemanites in 1 Chron. xxv. 4 would have gained in clearness by a little expansion. It is a sign of the times that Kittel is giving so much attention to Assyriology. Among other evidences of this I may mention his note on 2 Chron. i. 16, where he adopts Winckler's suggestion that מִקְרָא in 1 Kings x. 28 and 2 Chron. i. 16 contains the name of a country—namely, Kuë (i.e., Cilicia); cf. Ezek. xxvii. 14, where Syria receives its horses from Togarmah—i.e., from Western Armenia. But Winckler does not stand alone. Hommel and McCurdy also deserved honourable mention.

T. K. CHEYNE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EPIGRAPHIC DISCOVERIES AT MATHURĀ.

Vienna: April 30, 1896.

A letter from Dr. Führer, accompanied by a batch of impressions of inscriptions, informs me that a grant of 300 rupees from the Government of the North-Western Provinces enabled him to resume his explorations at Mathurā during February last. Dr. Führer spent this (for excavations) rather insignificant sum partly on "prospecting operations" in the large Katra Mound, which is said to conceal the ruins of Keshava's ancient temple, destroyed by Aungmye, and partly on diggings in some unexplored portions of the Kankālī Tilā, which some years ago yielded the splendid collection of important Jaina inscriptions.

The Katra Mound furnished none of the hoped-for Brahmanical sculptures and inscriptions, but only, as in former times, fragments belonging to a Buddhist Stūpa of the Kushana period. But the results of Dr. Führer's work in the Kankālī Tilā were as valuable as those of 1889-93. Besides a number of smaller fragments of inscriptions, giving the names of various Jaina schools and teachers, he found a longer one, which, in spite of the omission of the reigning king's name, possesses a considerable interest, and perhaps indicates that the dates of the Kushana kings, Kanishka, Huviska and Vāsudeva or Vāsushka, must be interpreted otherwise than is usually done.

The curiously misspelt text of the mutilated document runs thus:

1. Namasvarasiddhantā Arāhātāntā | Mahā-ā-jasya rājātirājasya svarvaccharasvate d[ā]
2. 200 90 9 (?) hemañtāntā 2 divas 1 ārahāto Mahāvīrasya pr[ā]m[ā]
3. sya Okhārikāyo vītu Ujhatikāyo ca Okhāye svāvikābhaginit[ā]
4. śīrikasya S'ivadīnāsyā ca eteh ārahātā-yatāne sthāpit[ā]
5. devakulān ca |

With the obvious corrections *namas-sarva* for *namasvarva*, *sanivaccharasate* for *svavaccharasvate*, *dhitu* for *vītu*, *svāvikā* for *svāvikā* and *etah* for *eteh*, as well as with the highly probable restoration *dā[tiye nava(?) -navatyadhike]* at the end of l. 1, the following translation may be given:

"Adoration to all Siddhas, to the Arhats! In the second century [exceeded by ninety-nine (?) 299 (?) of the Mahārāja and Rājātirāja, in the second month of winter, on the first day—an image of the Arhat Mahāvīra was set up in the Arhat-temple by the following [persons], by . . . and by Ujhatikā, daughter of . . . [and] of Okhārikā, by Okhā, the lay-sister . . . of . . . śīrika and S'ivadīna . . . and a temple."

As the first two numeral signs are very distinct, and only the third is somewhat blurred and of unusual form, it is evident that the document was incised at all events after the year 290 (possibly in the year 299) of an unnamed era, and during the reign of an unnamed king who bore the titles *mahārāja* and *rājātirāja*. The last mentioned circumstance permits us to determine, at least, to which dynasty the king belonged. For though the two combined titles occur before the names of Azes, Azilises, Gondopherres, Pakores, Kadphises I. and II., Kanishka, Huviska, and Vāsudeva, only one of the last three kings can be here intended, because, as far as is known at present, none of the first six ruled over Mathurā. And to this conclusion points also the type of the characters of the inscription. It fully agrees with that of the numerous votive inscriptions of the time of the Kushana rule over Mathurā; and it preserves in the broad-backed *śa* with the slanting central stroke, and in the tripartite subscript *ya*, two archaic forms which during this period occur only occasionally for the later *śa* with the horizontal cross-bar and the bipartite *ya*. These characteristics, as well as the general appearance of the letters, preclude also the (otherwise possible) assumption that the inscription might belong to the time of a later Kushana king, who ruled after Vāsudeva and before the conquest of Mathurā by the Guptas about 400 A.D.

Under these circumstances, the date of Dr. Führer's inscription, which differs from those found in the other inscriptions of the Kushanas of Mathurā, gains a considerable importance. Hitherto we possessed only documents with the years 5-28 for Kanishka, 29-60 for Huviska, and 74 (misread 44)-98 for Vāsudeva; and these dates have been taken by most Sanskritists to be years of the Saka era of 78 A.D., supposed to have been established by Kanishka, but by Sir A. Cunningham as years of the fifth century of the Seleucid era, or equivalent to [40]5-[4]98, i.e., 93-191 A.D. If we now have reason to believe that the new date Saka 299 fell in the reign of one of these three kings, that may be explained in two ways. Either it may be assumed that the Kushanas of Mathurā used two eras—one established by Kanishka, and a second which began much earlier; or it may be conjectured that their dates with the figures 5-98 are abbreviated by the omission of the hundreds, and that, being in reality equivalent to 205-298, they have to be referred to the era which occurs so frequently in the lately discovered Kharosthi inscriptions from the Panjab, as well as in some older finds.

It seems very tempting to consider the Mathurā date of S'odāsa, Sami 72, the Taxila date of his contemporary Patika, Sami 78, the date Sami 102 of M. Senart's No. 35 (*Notes d'Épigraphie Indienne*, v.), the Takht-i-Bahi date of Gondopheres, Sami 103, the date, Sami 113, of Dr. Waddell's Kaldavra inscription (*Vienna Or. Jour.*, vol. x., No. 1), the Panjar date of a Gushana king (name lost), Sami 123, the date, Sami 200, of M. Senart's No. 34, the date, Sami 276 or 286 of the Hashtnagar image and Dr. Führer's new Mathurā date, Sami 299 (?), as links of one and the same chain, to which also the abbreviated dates of Kanishka and his successors, Sami [20]5-[2]98, belong. If all these dates are really connected in the manner suggested, the beginning of this Northern era must fall in the first half of the first century B.C. For the time of Gondopheres, who ruled in its 103rd year, is undoubtedly the first half of the first century A.D.

For the present, and until more dated inscriptions of this period with royal names are found, this suggestion, which coincides in the main with M. Senart's views expressed at the end of his article quoted above, is nothing more than a bare possibility. Perhaps further explorations in the Kankali Tila, which Dr. Führer intends to undertake, will prove its correctness.

G. BÜHLER.

SCIENCE NOTES.

Nature of Thursday next, May 7, will contain, as an addition to the "Science Worthies Series," a Life and an Appreciation of Sir Joseph Lister, the new president of the Royal Society. The latter is by Prof. Tillmanns, of Leipzig. A photogravure portrait of Sir Joseph Lister will accompany the articles as a supplement.

MR. JOHN MURRAY will publish this week a new edition of Sir Charles Lyell's *Student's Elements of Geology*, entirely revised throughout by Prof. J. W. Judd, who was formerly a pupil of Sir Charles, and is now dean of the Royal College of Science.

AT the Royal Institution, on Tuesday next, Mr. C. V. Boys will begin a course of three lectures on "Ripples in Air and on Water." The evening discourse on Friday will be delivered by Prof. Silvanus P. Thompson, his subject being "Electric Shadows and Luminescence."

THE fourth James Forrest Lecture will be delivered on Thursday next at the Institution of Civil Engineers by Prof. A. B. W. Kennedy, who has taken for his subject "Physical Experiment in relation to Engineering."

A COURSE of ten lectures will be delivered in the gardens of the Zoological Society by Mr. F. E. Beddard, the prosector, on Saturdays at 4 p.m., beginning to-day.

THE spring meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain will be held on May 7 and 8, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster, under the presidency of Sir David Dale. Upon that occasion the Bessemer gold medal, which is awarded annually in recognition of meritorious services in advancing the science or practice of the metallurgy of iron and steel, will be presented to Dr. Hermann Wedding, of Berlin.

AT the last meeting of the Geological Society, Prof. Albert Heim, of Zürich, was elected a foreign member; and Prof. S. L. Penfield, of Newhaven (Conn.), and Dr. J. Walther, of Jena, were elected foreign correspondents. It was also announced that a portrait in sepia of Prof. Bonney, executed by Prof. Trevor Haddon, had been presented to the society by thirty-four fellows.

PHILOLOGY NOTES.

THE fifth part of the Oxford Concordance to the Septuagint, by Hatch and Redpath, has just been published by the Clarendon Press, going as far as *πρόβουλον*. One more part, which is already in an advanced stage, will conclude the work; and it is hoped that this will appear in the course of the summer. The whole of this large and valuable undertaking will thus be completed within little more than four years from the appearance of the first part.

AT the meeting of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, to be held on Monday next, at 37, Great Russell-street, the Rev. C. J. Ball will read a paper on "The First Chapter of Genesis and the Babylonian Cosmogonies."

WITH reference to the reported purchase by the Czar of an ancient MS. of the Gospels, belonging to the Greek community of Sarumsahly, near Caesarea, Prof. Armitage Robinson writes to the *Times* that, judging from the description, he has no doubt that it must be a missing portion of Codex N, of the sixth century, of which thirty-four leaves are at Patmos, six in the Vatican, four in the British Museum, and two at Vienna. He adds that the late Dr. Hort told him, eight or nine years ago, that he was confident the rest of Codex N would one day appear, probably in the neighbourhood of Ephesus.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN LITERARY SOCIETY.—(Tuesday, April 7.)

E. A. CAZALET, Esq., president, in the chair.—M. Owsiankin, of Vladivostock, read a paper on "Siberia." After referring to the scanty and erroneous knowledge possessed by people in this country, he gave an historical sketch of the conquest of Siberia three centuries ago (1582) by the Cossack adventurer Ermak, who had been outlawed from Russia on account of the robberies he had committed on the Volga. Assisted by the great merchants Strogonoff, Ermak conquered a portion of Siberia, and presented it as a peace-offering to the Czar Ivan the Terrible, who thereby acquired this immense territory without war or cost. The lecturer then gave a geographical sketch of Siberia and a description of the colonists (among whom perhaps the most successful were Russian Dissenters and the so-called "Old Believers") and of the various aborigines, some of whom, as, for instance, the Bouriat, were not dying out, as was unfortunately the case with natives in other parts of the world. He dwelt on the innate kindness of the Russian peasant in his relations with the semi-savages, whom he treated as brothers. The exile system was the cause of much evil, by filling Siberia with criminals, who robbed the population and contaminated them by their bad example, as they were free to roam about after their term of penal servitude had expired. At the present time the Russian Government was affording considerable assistance to respectable labourers who wished to work the virgin soil of Siberia. The productiveness of the country was proverbial; and mining was important, especially gold, of which nearly three millions sterling was obtained annually. There was also a great future for the iron and coal industries; but there was a lack of technical knowledge and appliances, which, combined with immense distances and bad communications, rendered traffic very difficult. As regards trade and commerce, goods could now be brought, not only in the primitive way from Russia, in carts and by the rivers, but also by the Kara Sea and the Yenisei, which had been navigated, thanks to the enterprise of Capt. Joseph Wiggins, but also and most especially by the Pacific Ocean to Vladivostock, at one-twentieth of the cost of the former land carriage. From that port, which had been almost monopolised by German merchants, goods could be distributed all over the Amur region. England should enter into closer commercial relations with Siberia by this sea route. The frugal Chinese had acquired great influence

on the Amur as labourers and in the conduct of retail business, but probably their services will have to be dispensed with in the future. The press, learned societies, and the facilities for education were described in more or less favourable terms; and the thirst for education, which was a characteristic of the local population, was dwelt upon with complacency. It appears that some of the towns have more newspapers and general mental activity than in the European provinces of Russia. Mr. Owsiankin commended several of the administrative and judicial improvements which appear to be in contemplation. But the great Siberian Railway was the all-absorbing subject. Its importance for Siberia and for Russia, both politically and commercially, and its advantages, in an international sense, for all nations, formed the main theme of his discourse. It would bring Europe and the Far East into touch; and if the terminus on the Pacific could be a harbour free of ice in all seasons the result would benefit the whole world and shorten the Siberian Railway by more than 500 miles. The sundry treaties, in virtue of which China had ceded territory to Russia, were also explained. The population was estimated at seven millions, all told, and the value of the manufactures at about £1,000,000 a year.—During the discussion which ensued Dr. Markoff, who had travelled in various parts of Asia, expressed regret that of late years English capitalists had not known how to take advantage of the commercial and industrial opportunities which Russia and Siberia offered to skill and enterprise, whereas during the last twenty years nearly twenty million sterling had been invested by Belgian and French capitalists in the coal and iron mines of Southern Russia, and in other establishments of a productive and lucrative character.—Mr. Oswald Cattley, who has visited the western portions of Siberia with the object of extending commercial relations, said that his experience did not point to profitable results. The absence of proper communications and other elementary drawbacks resulted in a very unequal distribution of grain and other produce which could not be sold in some localities, while in other places there was a lack of these articles even for local consumption.—Mr. Howard, the author of a book about the I-land of Saghalin, and perhaps the only Englishman who has visited some portions of that penal settlement, said it was in many respects a remarkable island, which would ere long come prominently before the public. As regards Siberia, he considered that it would be the means of solving most useful social and economical questions, thanks to the great railway which is now in course of construction. He predicted that the terminus (Vladivostock?) would have a greater future than San Francisco, being bound up with more world-like interests. It would be the link between the boundless seas and oriental populations on the one side, and a rich continent on the other, reaching into the very heart of Europe as far as Berlin and Paris.—The president wound up the discussion by stating the fact, which had not been mentioned, that serfdom had never existed in Siberia, though the advantages of municipal and communal government, &c., (*Zemstvo*), which had been granted to Russia after the emancipation of the serf in 1861, had not yet been conferred on Siberia. He doubted whether the railway could pay as a commercial enterprise, because grain and other low-priced produce of Siberia could not bear the high charge of railway freight. He commended the system of employing convicts in the construction of the line, but pointed out the danger in the future from Chinese labour and Japanese industry, which could penetrate through Russia into Europe, where they would lower still more the cost of production and the value of manufactures, complicating various social problems. The transfer of the prison administrations of Russia from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Justice showed that improvements were in contemplation. In conclusion, he mentioned several Russian names, which were connected with questions regarding Siberia and the Amur, beginning with Admiral Count Pontiatine, and ending with Admiral Tshihatcheff, the present Minister of Marine, who were personally known to many members of the society.

CLIFTON SHAKSPEARE SOCIETY.—(Saturday, April 11.)

MISS LOUISA MARY DAVIES in the chair.—Mr. J. W. Mills, in a paper on "Venus and Adonis," said that before we formulate a definite judgment concerning this poem, it is indispensable, in the interests of equity and truth, that we pause for a moment to take a cursory survey of the method of treatment adopted by artists of the period when their theme was such a one as that under discussion. Of all English poets Spenser is unsurpassed for loftiness of moral aims and spotless purity of life and conduct. The first two cantos of the "Faery Queen" suffice to show that he was a high-souled, pure-minded, Christian man, filled with loftiest aspirations after spiritual truth, and athirst for all manner of virtuous excellence. Canto X. of Book I. undoubtedly inspired Bunyan and George Herbert, two writers who have exalted the higher life of quite different classes of English folk. Yet in Canto XII. of Book II. Spenser, with a daring frankness of treatment, uses an Oriental voluptuousness of portraiture and a lavish exuberance of every conceivable form of sensuous beauty that can intoxicate the senses or bewilder the unstable heart of man. This is a perfect analogue to those bold touches and that warmth of gorgeous colouring that make us somewhat wince as we read the "Venus and Adonis." Now read Spenser's "Epithalamion," with its Rubens-like unveiling of the manifold corporeal perfections that adorn the bride's person, and finish with his hymns on "Love" and "Beauty." That unhappy mental condition, which, in every phrase of more than customary boldness, and in every frank and true presentment of nature, can at once detect a *lesa majestas* against sacred Virtue, savours rather of morbid pruriency than of purity of thinking. In their handling of these subjects both Shakspeare and Spenser are in most perfect harmony with the artistic instincts of the epoch, and Shakspeare's treatment of the Venus and Adonis legend is precisely similar to that of the Italian artists, and the poem in no way tended to lower the prevailing notions of morality, but is simply on the same plane with them, which is all that needs be said in his defence as an artist. If he errs, at least he errs in unimpeachable company; his friends are Tasso, Ariosto, Boccaccio, Spenser, Titian, Michael Angelo, Correggio: and, in a word, all the other intellectual giants of the seed of the Italian Renaissance. But it is by no means sufficient that the Areopagus of letters shall grant Shakspeare a grudging acquittal on the charge of immorality; it must be thankful and laudatory for the sound morality of his works. Coarseness, the fault of his age, is not always vice; nor plain speaking lowliness. The principles of ethics are indeed immutable; but morality, or the consequences deduced therefrom, will vary greatly with various nations, and with each evanescent generation of men. To place Shakspeare's essential soundness of morals in its true light, we may contrast him with certain writers of the nineteenth century. Goethe, the greatest literary intellect of the century and the idol of his nation, squanders all the resources of his great powers in adorning and recommending the wildest licentiousness. He seemed possessed by a perfect frenzy of wickedness. Proof of this is found in the *Lehrjahre* of Wilhelm Meister; *Werther*: the "Walpurgis Nacht" scene in *Faust*; the *Wahlverwandtschaften*, *Stella*, the *Mitschuldigen*, *Egmont*, *Bajadore*. Shakspeare's morality contrasts very finely also with the newest school of English fiction, represented by such works as *The Woman Who Did*, *Life on an African Farm*, *The Heavenly Twins*, *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. Equally to the advantage of honest Will is it to compare him with the modern French school of fiction, many of which, such as *Nana*, *L'Assommoir*, have not even the extenuation of artistic beauty. The more we compare our own Will with much of modern literature that stands high in the favour of the age, the more highly glow his honesty of purpose and his manly and essentially sound code of morals.—Miss Davies, in a paper entitled "With the Immortals," said the reading world has almost without exception surrendered itself so completely to the fascination of the human interest in Shakspeare's dramatic works, that the classic beauties of his Poems and the tender charm of his Sonnets have been comparatively overlooked. And yet it is not too much to say that if he had never

written a play, the wealth of imagination, and the splendour of the language of his Poems, and the inimitable and varied perfections of his Sonnets, would still have placed him in the foremost rank of the voices of the world. In the interests of Art we cannot afford to leave Shakspeare's "Venus and Adonis," his "Lucrece," his "Lover's Complaint," and even his "Passionate Pilgrim"—to say no word of the Sonnets—with uncut leaves. In the "Venus and Adonis" an unattractive theme is made to serve as an elaborately-chased setting for some of the purest gems of poetic thought and expression that have ever seen the light of day. This little read poem is a storehouse of untarnished beauties, exquisite descriptions of nature and stirring pictures of country life. A series of glorious word-paintings will be found in the portrait of the favourite horse of Adonis, and in (to adopt William Sharp's headings in the "Canterbury Poets" edition) "The Warning of Adonis," "The Hunting of the Hare," "A Hunting Morn," "The Death of Adonis." Among its minuter beauties, there are many touches descriptive of well-known aspects of nature. In lines 931-6 we find a remarkable instance of Shakspeare's power of flinging together jagged and inharmonious syllables to deal with a hateful idea. There are many other passages which contain the essence of true poetry. The characterisation of the hero and heroine would also doubtless well repay examination. Human nature, however, has its limitations, and one of these seems to be an inability to project itself into sympathy with the heart-beats of unconventional demi-gods and goddesses. And the incomprehensible defies analysis.

ASIATIC.—(Tuesday, April 14.)

SIR W. W. HUNTER, vice-president, in the chair.—Mr. Beveridge read a paper on "Anquetil Du Perron." It dealt chiefly with his personal history, and was mainly an abstract of the *Discours Préliminaire* to the *Zend Avesta*. His voyage to India was described, as also his interview with Siraj-ud-Daula and Mir Madan (the hero of Plassey), and his wonderful journey of 1200 miles from Colgong to Pondicherry. The chief novelty in the paper was some extracts from the Proceedings of the Council of Bombay and Surat of September and October, 1759, which gave details about Du Perron's encounter with another Frenchman in the streets of Surat. It appeared from them that Du Perron's antagonist was M. Biguent.

METEOROLOGICAL.—(Wednesday, April 15.)

E. MAWLEY, Esq., president, in the chair.—Mr. W. Ellis read a paper on "The Mean Amount of Cloud on each Day of the Year at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, on the Average of the Fifty Years 1841-90," in which he showed that a principal maximum occurs in winter and a principal minimum in autumn, with a secondary much less pronounced maximum in summer and a secondary minimum in spring. There is, however, considerable irregularity in the succession of daily values, the differences between which on consecutive days are in numerous cases relatively large. Cloudless days are most numerous in spring and autumn, and least so in winter and summer; days of little cloud are somewhat less numerous in winter as compared with other parts of the year, while days of medium cloud are much more numerous in summer than in winter. Days of much cloud are nearly equal in amount in all parts of the year; while overcast days are much more numerous and nearly equal in amount in the first and fourth quarters of the year, much less numerous in the second quarter, and again less numerous in the third quarter.—Mr. E. D. Fridlander gave an account of some observations of the amount of dust in the atmosphere made at various places during a voyage round the world in 1894-5. The experiments, which were made with a form of Aitken's Pocket Dust Counter, showed that there are often considerable variations in the number of dust particles in a very short space of time. Not only did dust occur in the air of inhabited countries, over the water surfaces immediately adjoining them, and up to an altitude of 6000 or 7000 feet among the Alps, but it was also found in the open ocean, and that so far away from any land as to preclude the possibility of artificial pollution,

and its existence has been directly demonstrated at a height of more than 13,000 feet.—Major H. E. Rawson gave an analysis of the Greenwich rainfall records from 1879 to 1890, with special reference to the declination of the sun and moon.

HISTORICAL.—(Thursday, April 23.)

SIR M. E. GRANT DUFF, president, in the chair.—Mr. J. Ragland Powel was elected a fellow.—A paper was read by Dr. F. Salomon, of Leipzig, on the "Foreign Policy of William Pitt during the First Ten Years of his Ministry."—A discussion followed, in which Mr. Oscar Browning and Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice took part.

FINE ART.

ERNEST GARDNER'S "HANDBOOK OF GREEK SCULPTURE."

"HANDBOOKS OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTIQUITIES."—*A Handbook of Greek Sculpture*. By E. A. Gardner. Vol. I. (Macmillans.) The appearance of Mr. Ernest Gardner's *Handbook of Greek Sculpture* is very timely. The increasing facilities for travel in Greece, the growth of "processes" which reproduce with startling exactitude photographic images, and the creation in certain towns of collections of casts from the antique, have done something to rouse that popular interest in the subject without which no handbook could expect a sale, and no deeper work would have a chance of being widely read. There are many people now waiting to be told what they are to think. It is on the diffusion of the spirit of Greek art, too, that the best hopes for European art in the future must rest. To an intelligent understanding of that spirit we must look for a deliverance from the petty prettiness of our toys and the smart vulgarity of our galleries; and it is just such an understanding that Mr. Gardner's book is fit to bring about. Of works upon the subject, small in compass, yet scientific and well-illustrated, there has hitherto been no great choice. The section on sculpture in M. Collignon's clever little *Archéologie Grecque* is too small to carry the reader far; and it was published earlier than that wonderful series of discoveries on the Athenian Acropolis (1886 *sq.*), which, as Mr. Gardner says, has "made Athens the centre of the study of early Greek art," and "the Attic school of sculpture the most prominent in a history where it was before represented only by a few isolated examples." The *Manual of Ancient Sculpture*, by M. Paris, well translated as it is by Miss Harrison, is too short and simple to really lay the foundations of a scientific knowledge. Mr. Gardner has contrived to hit the right mean between bulk and sketchiness. He seems to have learned just the best part of the German method of exposition. He is logical and builds up upon system, but he is not cumbersome and his sentences all tell. If the second part or volume draws an equally firm and clear outline of the rest of the subject, he will have enriched English readers by a useful and much-needed work. Vol. i. contains the introduction and a history of Greek sculpture down to the time of Phidias, the introduction dealing with the sources of our knowledge, and with the materials and processes of the sculptor. Vol. ii. is to comprise the rest of the fifth century, the fourth century, Hellenistic sculpture, and Greco-Roman sculpture. As a theorist Mr. Gardner is, if not actually conservative, at least very cautious; and rightly so. Handbooks are not the place for theories yet greatly in doubt; and Prof. Furtwängler's combination of the Bologna head with the Dresden statue, though it gives us a whole of great beauty, must not be too hurriedly referred to the famous Lemnian Athena of Phidias. The publishers

are to be congratulated on the excellent illustrations to the book. The drawing of the Discobolos (p. 237) is brought up to date by having the head turned in what is now known to be the right way. On p. 228, in the representation of Hercules and Atlas from the metopes of Olympia, the face of Hercules is made to bear a sort of "archaic smile," which we cannot find in a cast taken from the metope. We could have wished for an illustration of the "Niobe" of Mt. Sipylus, all the more because that given by MM. Perrot and Chipiez (*History of Art in Sardinia, &c.*) is of no great use. (Indeed, the best known to us is the small sketch in the *Illustrated London News*, January 31, 1880). But we must not be greedy. The fare before us is abundant enough and excellent.

LETTER FROM EGYPT.

Cairo: April 18, 1896.

PROF. FLINDERS PETRIE, in his letter to the ACADEMY of April 11, notices that one of the temples discovered by him this winter must have been built by Queen Ta-Usert, the last sovereign of the XIXth Dynasty, though "the form of the name is new." That he is right in the identification is made clear by some scarabs published by Dorow & Klapproth from Palin's Collection (*Collection d'Antiquités égyptiennes*, Paris, 1829), Pl. xxvii. Nos. 1493, 1494, and 1497, which read *Usert-sotep-n-Mdt*. So long as Ta-Usert reigned alone, like Hathepsu, she adopted the style of a male sovereign, and her cartouche was accordingly assimilated to that of Ramses II.

One of the pyramids at Lisht may now be considered definitely to have been the tomb of Usertesen I. The discovery of the beautiful white limestone statues of that monarch made there last year by M. Gautier has been followed this winter by the discovery of the finest and most perfect Egyptian altar in existence. It is of black granite, of very large size, and exquisitely sculptured with dedications to the Ka of Usertesen I. One more addition has thus been made to our knowledge of the history of the pyramids.

At Hau (Diospolis Parva) blocks of stone have been found in the rubbish mounds near the river with the cartouches of Ptolemy X. and Hadrian. Ptolemy X. must, therefore, have restored the temple there.

Captain Lyons has just returned to Cairo, having concluded his excavations at Philae. His latest discovery has been that of the temple of Har-nez-istef, to the north of Hadrian's chapel. Its stones had been carried away to build the Coptic Church of St. Mary. This discovery completes the number of temples known to have once stood on the island.

I hear that the remains of a temple and stones bearing the name of Shishak I. have been found at Tel el-Hamrawi, near the station of Râs el-Khalig, north of Mansûra.

The Coptic community has consented to allow its ancient churches, including those at Old Cairo, to be placed under the care of the Committee for the Protection of Mediaeval Art, and two Coptic members have accordingly been added to the committee.

A. H. SAYCE.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

In addition to the Royal Academy, the following exhibitions will open next week: a collection of English and Dutch pictures, at Messrs. P. & D. Colnaghi & Co.'s, Pall Mall East; water-colour drawings of Japan, by Miss M. R. Hill Burton, at the Clifford

Galleries, Haymarket; and a collection of old embroideries and brocades—mainly Spanish, Italian, French, and Polish ecclesiastical work of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—at Messrs. Debenham & Freebody's, Wigmore-street. The catalogue of this last exhibition, which Messrs. Debenham & Freebody have had compiled by an expert, contains an introduction, giving an interesting account of the development and historical importance of the handicraft. It is, perhaps, not beneath our notice that it has been very handsomely printed.

MR. W. F. YEAMES, R.A., has been appointed curator of the Painted Hall of the Royal Hospital, Greenwich, in succession to the late W. W. May.

THE annual general meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects will be held on Monday next, at 9, Conduit-street.

At the Royal Institution, on Thursday next, Mr. W. Gowland, formerly of the Imperial Japanese Mint, will begin a course of three lectures on "The Art of Working Metals in Japan."

At the meeting of the Society for promoting Hellenic Studies, to be held at 22, Albemarle-street on Monday next at 5 p.m., Mr. Talfourd Ely will read a paper on "Recently Discovered Paintings at Pompeii."

At the meeting of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society, to be held at the Imperial Institute on Tuesday next at 3 p.m., Mr. E. A. Brayley Hodgetts will read a paper on "The Tretyakoff Gallery of Pictures and Moscow."

MESSRS. CASSELL & Co.'s fourteenth annual black and white exhibition will be held (by permission of the Court of the Cutlers' Company) at the Cutlers' Hall, Warwick-lane, E.C., from May 28 to June 12. Drawings by Sir J. D. Lincoln, Messrs. J. MacWhirter, F. Dicksee, W. L. Wyllie, H. M. and W. Paget, the late C. Burton Barber, and many other artists will be on view.

At the annual general meeting of the Hampstead Art Society Sir J. E. Millais was elected an honorary member in place of the late Lord Leighton, Mr. Brodie Hoare, M.P., was elected president, and Mr. Henry Woods was also made an honorary member. The summer exhibition will be held at the Conservatoire, Eton-avenue, Swiss Cottage. The receiving day is May 15, when a special meeting of the council will be held for the election of artist members.

MESSRS. CASSELL & Co. are about to issue a cheap edition (at less than one-fourth the original price) of Prof. Eber's *Egypt: Descriptive, Historical, and Picturesque*, with 800 illustrations. Part I will be published on May 27.

On Tuesday next Messrs. Sotheby will offer for sale—together with a number of military medals, &c.—the King's colours formerly belonging to the 72nd Regiment, now the Seaforth Highlanders. This very week also comes the announcement that the officers of another regiment have purchased their old colours, which were recently put up to auction by a grandson of a former colonel. We believe that, about a century ago, it was the custom to burn the old flags when new ones were presented.

On Monday next will be sold at Paris the collection of pictures belonging to the late M. Lefebvre, of Roubaix, which includes Millet's "La Tricoteuse," three important Corots, and examples of Greuze, Van Goyen, Fromentin, Delacroix, Meissonier, Diaz, and Jules Dupré.

THE STAGE.

STAGE NOTES.

THE two most important of recent productions at the theatre—though they are two that would not habitually be classed together—are Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's skilful "Rogue's Comedy" at the Garrick, with an important part for Mr. Willard, and telling little ones for other people; and the new musical piece which it has pleased Mr. George Edwardes to bring out at Daly's, "The Geisha," which deals with the adventures of certain English visitors to a free-and-easy Japanese tea-house. At the Shaftesbury, the days of Mr. Stuart Ogilvie's somewhat ambitious piece were very speedily numbered. The Criterion has a piece in rehearsal, but, at this present writing, it has not yet been produced. Of one or other of these things we may have a little more to say another day. And, meanwhile, it may suffice to remind our readers that the interesting experiment of "Romeo and Juliet," with the star-crossed lovers acted by two young ladies—Miss Esmé Beringer as Romeo, and Miss Vera Beringer as Juliet (so it seems, but, remembering Lord Fauntleroy, the parts, it seems to us, might have been reversed)—is to be made at a matinée held before many days are over. The Miss Beringers are both so clever and attractive that the experiment has a considerable chance of success.

One day last week, at the smaller Queen's Hall, we heard Miss Fay Davis give publicly certain of those recitations, which have "caught on" so at large private parties, and which, hereafter, she will repeat in public two or three times. The attendance, naturally, was "smart" and influential; and Miss Fay Davis was listened to with very close attention—which is more, so far as our own experience, than it is possible always to secure for even the most favourite artist in a private drawing-room. That Miss Fay Davis is comely to behold, is distinctly to her advantage, and to ours. But she is much more than comely. She has the interest of excellent all-round intelligence; and this intelligence, seconded by excellent physical means, permits her a range open to few people who recite. If her comedy is telling, her pathos is delicate: that is to say, she possesses not exactly inspiration perhaps, but genuine art. Her performances will, on the whole, deserve the vogue which they are certain to secure.

"Qui a bu, boira," says the French proverb—and we have been again to the music hall. This time it was chiefly for the purpose of hearing the latest and perhaps youngest, and certainly not least able and enjoyable, of givers of "imitations"—the gifted ladies who substitute a mental "quick-change" for a merely material one, and are at one moment Letty Lind and at another Lottie Collins. Miss Marie Dainton is the music-hall artist in this genre whom we have last seen. Not only are her imitations very skilful, she has distinct individual charm, a rich, full voice, and, apparently, excellent spirits. Certainly she is to be watched; and she may do something of her own before long, and, if she does, it is likely to have character in it. Meantime, Miss Marie Dainton is excellent as Letty Lind, and her imitation of the "spasm" of Lottie Collins—there is no other word for it—when Lottie Collins is possessed of the seven devils of her music-hall energy, is as vivid and forcible as it can possibly be. Miss Marie Dainton, we predict confidently, will be welcomed in many places which the ordinary "artist" of "the halls" can scarcely hope to reach.

MUSIC.

RECENT CONCERTS.

THE Bristol Royal Orpheus Glee Society gave a concert last Friday week at St. James's Hall. When the members last visited London they won golden opinions, and they have again fully maintained their reputation. There is no need to enter into detail: the programme included familiar glees and part-songs. Mr. George Risely, the conductor of the society, may well be proud of his men, while they may be proud of such a general. The ensemble is perfect, the attention to lights and shades excellent; the fortes vigorous, and the pianos most delicate. The evening was altogether most enjoyable. Miss Esther Palliser and Mr. Andrew Black, by their excellent singing, added to the success of the concert.

MR. MOTTL gave his first concert at Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening; and the chief feature of interest was, undoubtedly, the performance of Beethoven's Pianoforte Concerto in E flat, by Mr. Eugen d'Albert. Fifteen years have passed since the pianist, a youth in his teens, left England, after having given wonderful promise as both executant and composer. We have read of his successes in Germany as a pianist and of his chequered career as a composer; it was, indeed, only last year that we heard him at the Cologne Festival, and bore testimony to his great artistic gifts. The rendering of the Concerto on Tuesday was interesting: intellectual and emotional power and fine technique were displayed, and yet it was not ideal. An instrument not in perfect tune either with itself or with the orchestra proved somewhat distressing; while, as regards the performer, a certain inward excitement, of which the outward signs were occasional hardness of touch and note imperfection, interfered with the calm dignity of the music. Mr. d'Albert, however, commences a series of recitals on Friday, and then, we believe, he will create a far stronger impression. On Tuesday he played for an encore a transcription of an Organ Prelude and Fugue in D by Bach, and fully satisfied the audience that in the matter of technique he could vie with the best. Such transcriptions, judged from an art point of view, are altogether unsatisfactory; but, as an executive display, Mr. d'Albert's performance was little short of marvellous. Nothing that skill and energy could do was wanting; but the fingers even of a Liszt could not give organ tone-colour to the pianoforte.

The performance of the Pastoral Symphony was unequal. In the first movement Mr. Mottl was too demonstrative: sharp contrasts and a certain formality interfered with the poetry of the music. The slow movement, on the other hand, was beautifully played; the conductor seemed to be one with, rather than over, the orchestra. The "Tannhäuser" Overture, with the "Venusberg" music written for Paris, was given. The "Venusberg" music, at first so intense, and afterwards so subdued, creates in the concert-room a strange impression. One feels that there is meaning in the powerful sounds; but the stage, with its constantly moving figures—the key, in fact, to unravel that meaning—is missing. It is strange that conductors like Richter and Mottl should care to present this music in the concert-room—a presentation, at any rate, quite at variance with the teachings of Wagner. The "Vorspiel" to "Parsifal," and that to "Die Meistersinger," completed the scheme, which was scarcely arranged in the best of ways, and moreover, contained nothing new. The desire for novelty may degenerate into a craze; but Mr. Mottl is known to be a man of catholic and progressive tastes, and one almost expects

him to introduce something new into his programmes.

MISS MURIEL ELLIOT, a pianist trained by Miss A. Clinton, gave an orchestral concert at St. James's Hall on Wednesday evening. The programme included no less than three Pianoforte Concertos. In Beethoven's No. 5 in C minor and Schumann's in A minor the young lady, though she played correctly and intelligently, did not catch the true spirit of the music: one missed the nobility and humour of the former, the romantic character of the latter. The third Concerto by Herr Stavenhagen, who ably presided at the conductor's desk, was, however, interpreted with marked feeling, while the virtuosic passages were executed in brilliant manner. The work itself, played in

London last season at a Philharmonic Concert, is one of considerable merit. There are some curious reminiscences of Wagner; but the music shows individuality, and the scoring talent. Miss Elliot may be congratulated on having made a successful debut.

J. S. SHEDLOCK.

MUSIC NOTES.

AT the Royal Institution, on Saturday next, Mr. F. Corder, curator of the Royal Academy of Music, will deliver the first of a course of lectures on "Three Emotional Composers—Berlioz, Wagner, Liszt," with musical illustrations.

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